

## Iraq says 3 ships hit off Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday its warplanes had hit three ships in the Gulf off the Iranian coast in the past 24 hours. A military spokesman told the Iraq News Agency (INA) the latest attack was at 1250 GMT, following earlier strikes at 0600 and at 1930 GMT Tuesday night. The planes dealt accurate and effective blows to the targets and returned safely to base, he said. There was no immediate confirmation of the attacks from Gulf shipping sources. The last confirmed Iraqi attack was on March 8, when an Iranian tanker was hit by a missile south of Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal. Gulf shipping sources reported on Tuesday an Iranian warship set ablaze the Cypriot supertanker Pivot with a missile. They said there were no casualties and the ship headed for the Gulf emirate of Fujairah after the fire was put out. The Pivot was the 18th ship hit this year in the maritime extension of the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

Volume 12 Number 3428

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MARCH 19-20, 1987, RAJAB 19-20 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## King receives envoys' credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan: Ludwik Janczysyn of Poland, Poul Bent Soendergaard of Denmark and Patrick Mack of Ireland. Also on Wednesday, Mohammad Afanah was sworn in before the King as Jordan's ambassador to Sudan. The ceremonies were attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

## New awqaf council formed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed the formation of a new awqaf (Islamic affairs) council with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat as its chairman. Mr. Bashir Al Sabbagh, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Al Keilani and Mr. Haidar Murad were appointed members of the council. The two-year council began its work on March 1.

## Kuwait to host Yemeni talks

SANAA (R) — Kuwait will host a meeting next week between South Yemen's leaders and their refugee opponents in North Yemen, South Yemeni opposition sources said Wednesday. Kuwait has long tried to bridge differences between the two Yemens which began talks in 1982 on a merger. The sources said the South Yemenis, led by President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas, would meet leaders of the 50,000 people who took refuge in North Yemen after the overthrow in January last year of President Ali Nasser Mohammed.

## Bomb hurled at Israeli mission in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Two men on a motorcycle threw an explosive device into the garden of the Israeli diplomatic mission here Wednesday but the bomb failed to explode, police said. A police spokesman said the bomb was contained in a package wrapped in tin foil and tossed over a three-metre iron fence surrounding the mission, located on a main boulevard in the residential suburb of Paleo Psychiko.

## U.S. Senate defeats move to block aid to contra rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate defeated a move to block \$40 million in military aid to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels, handing President Reagan a key foreign policy victory. The 52-48 vote virtually assured that the money — the last installment of a \$100-million aid package approved by Congress last year — would reach the rebels fighting the leftist Managua government.

## 8 killed in Djibouti blast

PARIS (R) — Eight people were killed and some 30 injured in a blast in a crowded cafe in the Red Sea port of Djibouti, a spokesman for the African country's main newspaper La Nation said. Reached by telephone from Paris, he said the blast in one of the city's most popular cafes appeared to have been caused by a bomb.

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# Saudi kidnap victim released in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian kidnap victim was released in west Beirut on Wednesday as Syria was reported to have prevented pro-Iranian kidnappers from killing another hostage, Frenchman Jean-Louis Normandin.

Bakr Damanhuri, an employee at the Saudi embassy's cultural section, appeared at a news conference given by Lebanon's justice minister, Nabih Berri.

"I was treated as a prisoner. I saw nothing, no human, no bird, not even an animal," said Mr. Damanhuri, the first kidnapped hostage to be released since 7,500 Syrian troops backed by 100 tanks deployed in west Beirut Feb. 22.

Mr. Damanhuri, responsible for the affairs of Saudi students in Lebanon, went missing after he arrived at Beirut airport on Jan. 12, police said at the time.

Mr. Damanhuri's release came hours after a pro-Iranian kidnap group said it had postponed for a

week its threat to kill Mr. Normandin.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation said in a statement Tuesday night it had decided to reprieve Mr. Normandin following appeals from Lebanese Shi'ite clerics and his family, as well as "secret promises given by the French government."

Mr. Damanhuri, eyes brimming with tears, was presented to a news conference at Mr. Berri's home, attended by Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, and Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafiq Hariri.

Mr. Berri said: "Amal and Syrian security officials made intensive contacts and we managed to release Mr. Bakr (Damanhuri)

and return him to his family." Mr. Damanhuri, who had an unkempt beard and wore a brown suit, said he felt "happy and proud" to be free.

He said he had seen only the two gunmen who kidnapped him, adding they had asked him repeatedly if he was responsible for abducting a Saudi dissident named Nasser Al Said in Lebanon who disappeared before Israel's 1982 invasion.

The Saudi diplomat was the first foreign hostage to be released since the Syrian intervention four weeks ago. No group had claimed credit for his kidnap.

Mr. Waite dropped out of sight Jan. 20 after he left his seaside west Beirut hotel to negotiate with hostage-holders. No group has admitted holding him.

Mr. Berri, answering questions in English, said, "Some declarations worked against his (Mr. Waite's) release."

"I hope we can arrive to something (concerning Mr. Waite)," he added without elaborating on his remark.

(Continued on page 4)

## Amal-Palestinian clashes renewed near Sidon; sniping blocks food supply to Shatila

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters clashed with Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen in South Lebanon for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, police said.

Battles with machineguns and mortars flared near Zaghdra and Maghdousheh villages in hills east of the port city of Sidon, but the police had no word on casualties.

Palestinians from the nearby refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mich captured Maghdousheh last November in a bid to force Amal to lift blockades on camps in Beirut and Tyre.

The fighters withdrew from Maghdousheh in January after "camps war" mediation by Syria, Libya, Iran and Algeria, and on Tuesday announced a further pullback from Zaghdra.

Amal said it had recovered Zaghdra by force, but this was disputed by the Fatah Palestinian

faction and the pro-Syrian National Palestine Salvation Front (PNSF).

The two Palestinian groups, at odds on political issues, have fought side by side during the "camps war," which has killed at least 850 people since it erupted again last October.

In Beirut, a Palestinian was killed and a second wounded by sniper fire on Wednesday as they helped unload a U.N. relief truck at a beleaguered refugee camp in Beirut, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said.

The spokesman said the shooting occurred after the first of three trucks entered the battered Shatila settlement, blockaded by the Amal militia.

A Palestinian source said the relief effort was called off immediately. "The operation was terminated and the truck was abandoned near the eastern entrance to the camp," he said.

The three UNRWA trucks carried 28 tonnes of flour, sugar, rice, milk powder and medicine for Shatila's 3,000 refugees.

UNRWA delivered 16 tonnes of flour and milk to Shatila on Feb. 27, in the first convoy to reach the camp since Amal began its siege on Oct. 29.

The PNSF was allowed to send in 20 tonnes of food on March 1. Two Palestinian women were reported wounded on Tuesday during sporadic clashes at Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh camp.

Amal forces still man positions around Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila despite last month's deployment of more than 7,000 Syrian troops in west Beirut.

The PLO has accused Syria of backing Amal directly in what the Shi'ite militia says is its drive to stop the Palestinians from regaining a power base in Lebanon.

## Armacost sees chances for missile pact, summit

MOSCOW (AP) — A top U.S. State Department official said Wednesday the superpowers had the will to reach agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe, and that such a deal could lead to a summit meeting in Washington.

Michael Armacost, under-secretary of state for political affairs, told reporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport that the United States saw recent progress in many areas of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Mr. Armacost said Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's decision to seek a separate agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe was a "very important potential breakthrough."

Problems remain to be solved, including the issue of verification, but "I sense the spirit on both sides to work out those details," he said.

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"I would hope that if that can be completed, that would open the door to a summit in the United States," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev and President Reagan have met twice, in Geneva in 1985 and Reykjavik, Iceland in 1986.

Mr. Armacost spent two days in Moscow discussing U.S.-Soviet differences on regional issues and setting the stage for the visit of Secretary of State George P. Shultz on April 13-16.

Mr. Armacost met Monday with First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Voronov and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev. He met Tuesday with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov

said before the meeting between Mr. Armacost and Mr. Shevardnadze that the Soviets regarded Mr. Armacost's visit as "very useful." The Soviets issued no later statement.

Mr. Armacost said the Soviets were looking forward to Mr. Shultz's visit, and that the secretary of state will be prepared to move ahead in U.S.-Soviet relations.

"We think there has been progress in many areas of U.S.-Soviet relations in recent months," Mr. Armacost said.

Progress on disputes other than arms control, particularly on Afghanistan, is as important as disarmament for a long-term improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations, he said.

The key issues in Afghanistan, where an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers are helping the pro-Soviet government fight guerrillas, are Soviet withdrawal and national reconciliation, Mr. Armacost said.

"I come away with the impression that they have been wrestling with core issues in recent months. That's a hopeful sign," Mr. Armacost said.

In a recent round of talks with a U.N. mediator in Geneva, the Afghan government said Soviet soldiers could be out of the country in 18 months, while Pakistan demanded they leave in seven months, Mr. Armacost said.

U.S. officials also noted during February and early March a modest but steady increase in the number of Soviets allowed to emigrate, Mr. Armacost said.

## King awards highest honour to Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday conferred on his younger brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Al Hussein Ibn Ali Medal in recognition of his continued efforts in serving the country and Arab and Islamic causes at Arab and international forums.

The presentation ceremony took place at the Royal Court in the presence of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. The Al Hussein Ibn Ali Medal is Jordan's highest honour.

The awarding of the honour to Prince Hassan coincided with the

Crown Prince's 40th birthday which falls on Friday. To mark the occasion, a unit of the Third Royal Armoured Division held a military training day on Wednesday which was attended by the Crown Prince. The unit, which is named after Prince Hassan, staged military training exercises on the occasion and held shooting contests.

Prince Hassan presented prizes to the winners. Later, the Prince hosted a lunch to the unit's personnel on the occasion of his birthday. The unit presented the Crown Prince with commemorative gifts.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday confers the Al Hussein Ibn Ali Medal on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in recognition of the Crown Prince's efforts in serving Arab and Islamic causes (Petra photo)

## Crown Prince: Education is a national responsibility

AMMAN (Petra) — The education system and its various dimensions are a national responsibility which should not be shouldered alone by the Ministry of Education, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

Others should contribute to the process by opening new channels for national savings to fulfilling the needs of the system, through setting up bodies such as a national fund for culture or Waqf proceeds for science and culture, said the Crown Prince.

Prince Hassan, who was addressing a meeting of the Education Council, said His Majesty King Hussein was closely following up on the national dialogue on outlining and deciding on the educational policy. The Prince said that King Hussein was highly valuing the method which "we have adopted vis-a-vis a projected meeting in summer to discuss all aspects related to the education process to be attended by all the concerned parties."

The Crown Prince said that while discussing the present general situation of the education policy, "we should undertake a number of short, medium and long range policies to develop education."

The short-term recommendations, Prince Hassan said, should call for developing educational facilities and to assure the necessity of using laboratories and libraries. The medium and long term recommendations should focus on the diversification of books and the interaction of educational systems as well as adopting means to achieve the goals of the report education contained in the 1986-1990 five-year plan and these means could be planned within the framework of the five-year plan to render Jordan capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century, he added.

need for forming specialised working groups to discuss the various aspects of the report on education to tackle it from its various humanitarian and scientific dimensions and to link the concepts of development and the sense of belonging through a practical model.

The Crown Prince also noted the necessity of directing ambitions through conferring with the students and their families as an inseparable unit and focusing on methods to link theoretical and practical education.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, present during the meeting, reviewed a number of issues raised in one of the report's sections dealing with the educational policies, their contents and goals. Mr. Rifai noted the importance of defining what was meant by the educational policy. "All aspects related to school and secondary education or to university education?" questioned Mr. Rifai, stressing whether there was a term applicable to the concept of a clear university education.

Mr. Rifai also made a number of remarks on what was meant by the report's explanations of the basis of nationalism, patriotism and intellectualism. He also probed the report's recommendations vis-a-vis the areas of planning, education administration and stressed that actual participation in decision making at the level of education administration would meet the report's goal, mainly democracy in education.

Education Minister Thoukan Al Hindawi referred the questions to the committee in charge of formulating the report's recommendations and said it would re-formulate the suggestions in view of the discussions which took place during Wednesday's session.

## U.S. panels to grant immunity in Iran probe

WASHINGTON (R) — The special congressional committees investigating the Iran arms scandal on Wednesday approved a plan to grant limited immunity from prosecution to key witnesses John Poindexter and Oliver North to obtain their testimony.

However, the chairman of the separate Senate and House of Representatives committees also told a news conference they would hold off for 90 days before hearing testimony from Lieutenant-Colonel North and Vice-Admiral Poindexter, former White House aides who played leading roles in the affair and who have refused to testify before Congress.

Such a delay had been requested by court-appointed independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who is conducting his own probe of the scandal.

Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House of Representatives committee, and Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate panel, also said they would unify their separate investigations, a move that will speed up congressional hearings into the affair.

"We have reached an agreement with the independent counsel (Mr. Walsh) on the timing for the hearings," he said.

Under the complex agreement thrashed out by the congressional committees and Mr. Walsh, neither Adm. Poindexter nor Col. North will testify publicly before June 15. The committees will be able to take private testimony from Adm. Poindexter any time after May 2, and from Col. North after June 15.

Arms sales funds reportedly went to kidnapers; McFarlane reiterates support for policy, page 2

cellor said. "We take him at his word..." Dr. Kohl said improved East-West relations are particularly important for West Germany, the frontline of the NATO military alliance.

"Relations with the Soviet Union of central importance for us," the chancellor said. "It is in the interests of both our countries to strengthen and deepen them."

But Dr. Kohl also struck a small note of caution, warning against seeking improved relations with the Soviet Union at any price.

"We will neither lose track of reality, nor chase illusions, nor smooth over differences, in our efforts to improve ties with the Soviet Union," Dr. Kohl said.

the taking of testimony from Col. North and Adm. Poindexter." Mr. Hamilton told reporters after the two committees met separately to approve the agreement.

The committees, created in early January to investigate President Reagan's gravest political crisis, also voted to seek limited immunity from prosecution for six other witnesses. Their names were not given.

The scandal erupted last November with the disclosure of secret White House arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

Adm. Poindexter resigned as Mr. Reagan's national security adviser on Nov. 25 and Col. North was fired by Mr. Reagan the same day.

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Arms sales funds reportedly went to kidnapers; McFarlane reiterates support for policy, page 2

## UNESCO envoy briefed on Israel's anti-Arab steps

AMMAN (Petra) — Edward Bonnet, an envoy from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), conferred here Wednesday with Minister of Education Thoukan Hindawi and the deported mayor of Jerusalem, Rawhi Al Khatib.

They discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's arbitrary measures against the indigenous population.

The minister of education spoke at length about Israel's malpractices and its changing of school and university textbooks, its closure of Arab educational institutions and its inhuman treatment of Arab teachers and students.

The Israeli authorities continue to confiscate Arab property and pursue a policy of changing the Arab character of areas under occupation in a bid to perpetuate the occupation of Arab land, Mr. Hindawi said. The majority of Arab children are deprived of basic social and educational services and the Arab people continually suffer from the heavy taxes, confiscation of Arab land and inhuman treatment at the hands of the Israeli authorities, the minister added.

The minister went on to say that the Israeli authorities continued to demolish churches, mosques and schools and pursued efforts to obliterate archaeological sites in a bid to obliterate Arab identity from the region.

Israeli authorities were trying to impose their own school textbooks which contain a distortion of the facts about the occupied Palestinian land.

Mr. Bonnet thanked the minister for the briefing and said that his country, Belgium, had faced similar inhuman treatment at the hands of the Nazi rulers during World War II.

The meeting with the minister was attended by Mr. Ahmad Al Bashairah, the secretary general of the Ministry of Education and senior ministry officials.

Deported Mayor Khatib briefed the UNESCO envoy on Israel's violations of educational, cultural and religious rights of Arab people and Israel's continued infringements of the sanctity of holy places and educational centres.

Mr. Khatib paid tribute to UNESCO for its continued help to preserve culture of Jerusalem.

Millions threatened by natural gas explosions, expert says

YAOUNDE (R) — Gas from an African lake which killed nearly 1,750 people last August was caused by a volcanic eruption, and millions of people throughout the world live under permanent threat of sudden death from such phenomena, leading world volcano expert Haroun Tazieff said Wednesday.

"And such eruptions of toxic gas are impossible to predict in time to allow mass evacuations," he said.

Mr. Tazieff, 72, is attending a crucial meeting of scientists from five continents trying to determine the cause of the disaster at Lake Nyos, in northwest Cameroon, in which 1,746 people were killed by toxic gas in seconds on the evening of Aug. 21.

The French scientist, whose first-hand experience of volcanoes throughout the world spans 35 years, said that what happened at Nyos was a typical volcanic eruption.

His theory is supported by Italian and Swiss volcanologists attending the six-day meeting called by the Cameroonian government which must decide whether it is safe for 10,000 survivors to return to the lake shores.

The conference also holds the key to the future of millions in many parts of the world who inhabit volcanic areas including New Zealand and Indonesia, the Philippines and central France.

The French theory is hotly disputed by limnologists, or lake specialists, led by U.S. experts, who say that the release of toxic gas at Nyos was not caused by a volcanic eruption but what is known as an overturn in the waters of the lake.

This is a mixing of upper and bottom layers of waters owing to temperature changes or external factors such as landslides or huge boulders falling into the lake. The disturbance can release gas collected on the lake bottom.

If this theory is correct, it would be possible to monitor gas accumulations and warn populations.

But Mr. Tazieff said a series of lesser explosions witnessed by another French scientist at Lake Nyos last December proved beyond doubt the volcanic nature of the August tragedy.



# Soviet warships join U.S. vessels in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Soviet warships are patrolling the Gulf waters, displaying military muscle with the United States, Britain and France in the strategic waterway that has become a key arena of the Iran-Iraq war.

Two Soviet destroyers have operated in the Gulf since Iranian gunboats intercepted and briefly inspected two Soviet freighters last September. Until then, the Western military was predominant in the Arabian Gulf.

The Kremlin has projected its naval presence to uphold the principle of free navigation in the Gulf, according to a published interview by a senior Soviet official. The Iranians have often threatened to close the Gulf.

Soviet efforts to keep the waterway open would dovetail with the position of the United States and its allies on the Gulf, which handles 60 per cent of the non-Communist world's oil. But marine salvage officers say the Soviet ships haven't yet liaised with Western warships protecting civilian shipping.

The Soviet naval presence also coincides with increased Soviet diplomatic efforts in the Gulf. Before 1985, only Iraq, Iran and Kuwait among the Gulf states had diplomatic ties with Moscow. Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established relations with the Soviets that year. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain still have no diplomatic ties with Moscow.

The United States, which was in Gulf before the Iran-Iraq conflict broke out in 1980, maintains a six-unit task force — three destroyers, two frigates and an amphibious landing ship that serves as command vessel. Britain and France, which joined the U.S. naval force since the war broke out, keep two to three vessels in the region.

The foreign warships have not succeeded in protecting civilian vessels that run the gauntlet of Iraqi and Iranian fighter-bombers, helicopter gunships and missile boats in the Gulf.

The Iraqis raid merchant ships in the 110-kilometre radius they define as a military exclusion zone in the Gulf's northern sector. To curtail Tehran's vital oil exports, the Iraqis bomb Iranian ships and oil-loading facilities.

Iran attacks Arab and neutral shipping in retaliation and often targets vessels linked to countries that Tehran says support Iraq, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iranian gunboats also intercept and search ships suspected of carrying war-related cargoes near the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's southern gateway.

Nearly 300 vessels have been attacked by both sides since 1984

and some 100 seamen killed.

Abu Dhabi's government-owned Al Itihad daily recently quoted Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department, as saying Soviet warships were needed in the Gulf to protect civilian shipping.

In a clear reference to military facilities the U.S. navy has in Bahrain and Oman, Mr. Polyakov advised against foreign "military bases" in the region.

The Soviets have a sizeable military presence in the Gulf of Aden on the western side of the Arabian peninsula.

Moscow has friendship and cooperation treaties with both North Yemen and South Yemen, which dominate the Red Sea and the strategic Strait of Bab Al Mandeb.

Arab diplomatic sources say that the two Soviet destroyers patrolling the Gulf operate from a huge base on South Yemen's Socatra Island.

Western shipping officials who monitor movements in the Gulf say one of the destroyers patrols southern sea lanes. The other often is sighted as far as 100 kilometres to the north near the Kuwait coast.

Arab diplomats say the Soviet ships have so far stayed in international waters and out of Arab territorial waters, and some officials say they prefer a balanced Soviet-West military presence in the Gulf.

## Israeli commission starts probe of Pollard scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — A government commission opened its closed-door investigation of the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case Wednesday, and officials said the key Israeli operative in the espionage ring was the first to testify.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated his promise that the commission of inquiry will be empowered to investigate anyone and its findings, although not binding, will be respected.

He also told American Jewish leaders Israel was "intent on maintaining and developing our close and friendly ties with the United States and the government of the United States has informed us that they share this feeling."

But he warned that "there are factors in the Middle East that are trying to exploit the situation in order to damage our close relations with the United States. Our friends must be on guard against this tendency."

The two-member commission, appointed by the Israeli government last week under pressure from the United States, began its first session in the prime minister's office in the walled Defence Ministry compound in Tel Aviv.

Israeli officials requesting anonymity said former high-ranking Mossad agent Rafi Eitan headed the list of those to be questioned by the panel.

A parliamentary subcommittee which is also investigating the affair announced it had finished taking most testimony and hoped to wind up the inquiry in the next seven to 10 days.

Legislator Abba Eban, who heads the subcommittee, said about 10 Israelis were questioned about their involvement in the case.

Pollard, 32, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced in Washington earlier this month to life in prison for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 26, was sentenced to five years in prison for possession of classified documents.

## Soviets report Waite in Iranian embassy

MOSCOW (R) — An official Soviet magazine said Wednesday that missing Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is being held in the Iranian embassy in west Beirut.

The British is believed to have been abducted during a mission to free kidnapped Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Wednesday's claim was published in Literaturnaya Gazeta, which last week alleged Mr. Waite's trips to Beirut were concerned more with facilitating secret shipments of U.S. weapons to Iran than with securing the release of Western hostages.

"We have succeeded in learning that Terry Waite is being held in a building of the embassy of Iran in west Beirut," Literaturnaya Gazeta said, without identifying its sources.

"What is he doing there? Is he continuing negotiations on the secret deliveries of American weapons to Iran, despite the scandal around 'Irangate'?" the magazine said.

Mr. Waite disappeared in west Beirut last Jan. 20. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, and other church leaders have consistently denied

that Mr. Waite has links with the government or intelligence agency of any country.

Britain's Foreign Office has also been at pains to state that the Anglican envoy acted independently, saying he had been advised not to go on his last trip to Lebanon.

Literaturnaya Gazeta alleged last week that Mr. Waite had travelled to Lebanon "under the cover of being a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury" and had made contact with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).



Terry Waite

## Carter arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Wednesday he might get new information about American and other foreign hostages held in Lebanon during his coming visit to Syria.

Mr. Carter also told reporters he believes leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should participate in Middle East peace negotiations along with other Palestinians. He singled out PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as "welcome by me."

Mr. Carter, admired by many Egyptians for his key role in mediating an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty during his presidency, flew in by special plane from the Algerian capital, Algiers.

Egypt was the second stop in a private Middle East-North Africa tour that also will take Mr. Carter to Syria, Jordan and Israel. A March 9 statement from his Georgia office said the aim of the trip was to hear about the region's problems and its hopes for the future.

## McFarlane backs policy to contact Iranian moderates

MARCO ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane said Tuesday that attempts by the administration of President Ronald Reagan to reach moderate elements within the Iranian government made sense.

But the effort stopped being sensible once weapons came into the picture.

"To introduce arms into that equation... is stupid, a mistake and a big one," Mr. McFarlane told members of the Health Industry Manufacturers Association during a speech at this resort on the Gulf of Mexico.

It was one of Mr. McFarlane's few public appearances since he attempted suicide from a drug overdose last month. The appearance was arranged last summer before he became embroiled in the Iran-contra controversy.

Mr. McFarlane, who resigned from the National Security Council (NSC) in December 1985, said Mr. Reagan's efforts to seek moderate elements in Iran were important because that nation is a key geographic and political country.

"The idea of simply asking, 'are there any sensible people in Iran?' is a reasonable one," he said.

But Mr. McFarlane said he and others who supported the failed three-month effort to reach Iranian moderates were responsible for weakening America's position with allies who oppose nations that support terrorism.

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But Mr. McFarlane said he and others who supported the failed three-month effort to reach Iranian moderates were responsible for weakening America's position with allies who oppose nations that support terrorism.

## Money from Iran arms sales reportedly went to kidnappers

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times has reported some profits from the sales of arms to Iran went to a group that financed the kidnappers of Americans in Lebanon, raising the possibility some money reached the hostage-takers.

The payments were made by Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian middleman in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran, the Times reported in Wednesday editions, quoting U.S. officials and associates of Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Ghorbanifar associates said the money was "ransom" paid as part of the effort to gain the freedom of the American hostages, but a U.S. official de-

scribed it as "payments for services rendered," the Times said. The newspaper quoted unidentified U.S. officials and associates of Mr. Ghorbanifar interviewed in the United States and Western Europe as saying that \$2 million to \$3 million of the money that Iran paid for the arms was deposited by Mr. Ghorbanifar last year in the Swiss bank account of an Iranian organisation, the Global Islamic Movement.

The Times said the group helped finance and organise radical groups in Lebanon, including the Hizbollah Party of God, the Shi'ite group thought to have been behind many of the kidnappings.

## Weinberger to fight for more aid to Turkey

ANKARA (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Wednesday promised Turkish leaders to fight a reluctant Congress for more military aid for this southern NATO ally, Pentagon officials said.

He also promised Turkey 40 additional updated F-4E fighter jets under a Pentagon programme to shore up the alliance's southern flank, the officials told Reuters.

Mr. Weinberger met for 90 minutes with Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and senior officials of the Turkish General Staff Wednesday, the second of a four-day visit to this country.

The U.S. defence officials said

both Mr. Weinberger and the Turks expressed strong disappointment at the negative vote in a House of Representatives Subcommittee last week on \$125 million in supplemental aid for Turkey this year.

Turkey will receive \$590 million in economic and military assistance this financial year in return for allowing U.S. defence facilities here.

The Reagan administration has proposed more than \$900 million, including \$785 million in military aid, for Turkey in 1988. Under a five-year Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA), signed in Washington this week, the Reagan admini-

stration promised Turkey it would press to increase aid.

But administration and Turkish officials are worried that Congress, pressed with domestic and U.S. military budget problems, will cut foreign aid requests.

"DECA was a solemn promise by the U.S. government and we will make vigorous efforts in Congress on behalf of Turkey," officials quoted Mr. Weinberger as promising Wednesday.

Mr. Weinberger Wednesday was also touring a new modern facility at Murted, near Ankara, where the Turks will soon begin co-producing U.S. advanced F-16 fighters.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	11:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.
11:30 ..... Koran	11:55 ..... News Summary
11:55 ..... Tom Sawyer	12:00 ..... Evening Show Contd.
12:00 ..... Children programmes	12:05 ..... News Summary
12:05 ..... Don Quixote Show	12:10 ..... Evening Show Contd.
12:10 ..... Local Health programme	12:15 ..... News Headlines
12:15 ..... French Teaching programme	12:20 ..... Close Down
12:20 ..... Local contests programme	
12:25 ..... News programme	
12:30 ..... Programme Review and varieties	
12:35 ..... News in Arabic	
12:40 ..... Tomorrow's programmes	
12:45 ..... Arab film	
12:50 ..... News Summary in Arabic	
12:55 ..... Film continued	
13:00 ..... Champions Elysees	
13:05 ..... News in French	
13:10 ..... Les intoxications accidentelles chez l'enfant	
13:15 ..... News in Hebrew	
13:20 ..... World Sports	
13:25 ..... News in Arabic	
13:30 ..... Paul Daniel Show	
13:35 ..... Remington Show	
13:40 ..... News in English	
13:45 ..... Feature film: "Green Ice"	
13:50 ..... RADIO JORDAN	
555 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00 ..... Light Music	
07:30 ..... Newsday	
08:00 ..... Morning Show	
08:30 ..... News Summary	
09:00 ..... Morning Show Contd.	
09:30 ..... Pop Session	
10:00 ..... Hitsville: The story of Motown	
10:30 ..... News Bulletin	
11:00 ..... Now Music	
11:30 ..... News Summary	
12:00 ..... Pop Session	
12:30 ..... News Summary	
13:00 ..... Instruments	
13:30 ..... Just a Minute	
14:00 ..... Concert Hour	
14:30 ..... News Summary	
15:00 ..... Instruments	
15:30 ..... Old Favorites	
16:00 ..... The Musical in Review	
16:30 ..... Pop Session	
17:00 ..... News Summary	
17:30 ..... Special Feature	
18:00 ..... Music	
18:30 ..... Newsday	
19:00 ..... Date with a Star	
19:30 ..... Evening Show	
20:00 ..... News Summary	

## FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	20:30 ..... A programme on the West Bank
21:00 ..... Arabic Series	
21:30 ..... Studio 96 (Arabic)	
22:00 ..... News Summary in Arabic	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:15 ..... French film: La fin du jour	
17:45 ..... News in French	
18:15 ..... Anjoan Show in France	
18:45 ..... News in Hebrew	
19:15 ..... History of Medicine	
19:45 ..... News in Arabic	
20:15 ..... Throbs (Comedy)	
20:45 ..... Weekly Preview	
21:15 ..... Falcon Crest	
21:45 ..... News in English	
22:15 ..... The Unnatural Causes	
22:45 ..... RADIO JORDAN	
555 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00 ..... Light Music	
07:30 ..... Newsday	

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of oil paintings by Mrs. Houryia Larak at the Petra Bank (Arabic) - Wadi Saqra (until March 20)	
* An art exhibition by Soviet artist Mikhail Aganessian at the University of Jordan (until March 19)	
* An exhibition of paintings by Adnan Yalsha at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabbal Amman, 1st Circle (until March 23)	
FEATURE FILM	
"Private Benjamin" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.	
PLAY	
* "Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7	
American Centre .. 644371	
American Cultural Library .. 641520	
British Council .. 636147/8	
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	
German Institute .. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 637177	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Husseini Youth City .. 667181/6	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 667011	
Amman Museum Library .. 636111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843553	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:21 ..... Fajr	
07:59 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr	
12:59 ..... Asr	
17:48 ..... Maghreb	
19:06 ..... 'Isha	

08:00 ..... Morning Show	21:30 ..... Over a Cup of Tea
08:30 ..... News Summary	22:00 ..... Jazz Hour
09:00 ..... Morning Show Contd.	22:30 ..... News Summary
09:30 ..... News Summary	23:00 ..... Mea from the Ministry
10:00 ..... Listeners' Choice	23:30 ..... The Musical Interview
10:30 ..... News Summary	24:00 ..... Close Down
11:00 ..... Country Music	
11:30 ..... News Summary	
12:00 ..... Country Music	
12:30 ..... News Bulletin	
13:00 ..... Music	
13:30 ..... In Concert	
14:00 ..... News Summary	
14:30 ..... Old Favorites	
15:00 ..... Instruments	
15:30 ..... Newsday	
16:00 ..... In Concert	
16:30 ..... Newsday	
17:00 ..... Date with a Star	
17:30 ..... Melody Time	
18:00 ..... French Way of Life	
18:30 ..... Play of the Week	

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)	
09:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
09:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)	
10:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
11:20 ..... Riyadh (RJ)	
11:30 ..... Cairo, Agaba (RJ)	
11:55 ..... London (RJ)	
12:35 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)	
13:15 ..... Athens (RJ)	
13:20 ..... Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)	
13:45 ..... Rome (RJ)	
01:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
11:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)	
12:30 ..... Damascus, Athens (OA)	
12:35 ..... Tripoli (LN)	
13:30 ..... Baghdad (LA)	
14:00 ..... Bahrain, Doha (GF)	
15:00 ..... Kuwait (KJ)	
15:05 ..... Amman, Istanbul (TK)	
16:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)	
20:00 ..... Sama's (LH)	
20:20 ..... Cairo (MS)	
03:00 ..... London (BA)	
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Wednesday rates	
Local currency rates in Jds	
Belgian franc .....	88.6 / 89.5
Dutch guilder .....	162.9 / 164.1
French franc .....	55.2 / 55.7
Italian lira .....	25.8 / 26.1
Japanese yen (for 100) .....	271.9 / 274.2
Swedish crown .....	52.6 / 53.1
Swiss franc .....	219.3 / 221.7
U.K. sterling pound .....	339.7 / 346.1
U.S. dollar .....	337.2 / 339.8
W. German mark .....	183.6 / 185.5
WEATHER	
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with scattered rain showers associated with thunder. Southwesterly moderate winds will become northwesterly fresh. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for thunder showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman .....	5 / 12
Agaba .....	11 / 23
Deserts .....	4 / 13
Jordan Valley .....	10 / 19
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Agaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Agaba 26 per cent.	
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:45 ..... Agaba (RJ)	
06:50 ..... Bucharest (RJ)	
07:05 ..... Rome (RJ)	
07:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
07:30 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)	
07:45 ..... Paris, London (RJ)	
08:15 ..... Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)	
09:20 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
09:30 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
10:00 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)	
10:15 ..... Baghdad (RJ)	
11:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
12:00 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)	
12:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
06:45 ..... Damascus, Athens (OA)	
06:50 ..... Tripoli (LN)	
07:30 ..... Baghdad (LA)	
08:00 ..... Bahrain, Doha (GF)	
09:00 ..... Kuwait (KJ)	
09:05 ..... Amman, Istanbul (TK)	
10:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)	
20:00 ..... Sama's (LH)	
20:20 ..... Cairo (MS)	
03:00 ..... London (BA)	
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:45 ..... Agaba (RJ)	
06:50 ..... Bucharest (RJ)	
07:05 ..... Rome (RJ)	
07:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
07:30 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)	
07:45 ..... Paris, London (RJ)	
08:15 ..... Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)	



## EC to help finance scientific research and animal wealth projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community is to provide Jordan with two grants worth a total of 4.1 million European Currency Units (ECU) to help finance projects conducted by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in accordance with two initial agreements signed in Amman on Wednesday.

The grants are part of a total of 19 million ECU promised by the European Community to Jordan under an earlier agreement signed by the two sides in 1982. One of the agreements signed Wednesday is for 2 million ECU which will be used to finance the purchase of equipment and laboratories and to train technicians at the RSS. The other agreement for 2 million ECU will go to the JCO to help the organisation carry out a sheep fattening project and to increase meat production in the Kingdom.

## Alumni club holds seminar on women, their role in society

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ukaz, the United Kingdom graduates alumni club, held a cultural event on Tuesday night as part of the Kingdom's celebrations marking International Women's Day.

The event included lectures, a seminar and a panel discussion on various issues of concern to Jordanian women as well as exhibitions of paintings, books, embroidery and jewellery, all made by Jordanian women.

Mrs. Asma Khader, a prominent Jordanian lawyer, presented a working paper at the seminar tackling the status and role of women under Jordanian laws, in civil functions and in social and political affairs. An audience of approximately 100 women heard Mrs. Khader outline different fields in which Jordanian women have excelled and contributed towards the development of their country.

In her paper, Mrs. Khader criticised some aspects of Jordanian laws which she described as biased against women.

## Mayor to outline services, plan for Greater Amman today

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh is to address a press conference today in which he will review municipal services provided in the Greater Amman area and details of the 1986-1990 five-year plan to develop the capital and its surrounding region.

Following the press conference, the mayor will accompany

initialled by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and Dr. Romano Landini, European Community representative in Jordan.

Last month, the European Community and Jordan signed an agreement under which the Kingdom will receive two million ECU to finance the purchase of equipment and technical training for staff working at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan.

In another development, the European Economic Community has approved a \$1.8 billion aid package to south and east Mediterranean countries, including Jordan. The foreign ministers of the countries adopted a five-year financial aid package to eight countries in the region during a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday. Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel will receive the aid which is to run through 1992.

## Grid link expected to benefit Jordan, Egypt

especially in cases of moral behaviour. She called for the development of these laws in order to cope with modern trends.

Dr. Hisham Ghuseib, from the Royal Scientific Society, also presented a research in which he stressed that the emancipation of women in society is connected with the freedom of the community since, he said, women are a basic part of the social structure. He said that the present status of women in society was the result of accumulated social and historic conditions which ultimately gave the man the upland in society.

'The weaker sex,' Dr. Ghuseib said, is partly to blame for accepting the de facto situation without attempting to enhance their position in society over the years.

At the end of the seminar, the audience took part in a debate on women and their society.

The painting and book exhibitions featured new publications and works by Jordanian female writers and painters. Several Arab writers also had their books on display at the book exhibition.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday patronises a ceremony to honour working mothers who have raised their families under difficult circumstances (Petra photo)

## Grid link expected to benefit Jordan, Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The projected scheme to link the national grids of Egypt and Jordan will have great advantages for the two countries and the Arab area in economic and technical fields, according to Dr. Hamdi Al Saher, deputy director of the Egyptian Energy Authority, who is now on a visit to Jordan.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Saher said that the project could be a nucleus for linking grids in other Arab countries. A study is underway for executing this project, which, he said, would provide protection to either network in cases of emergency in that either of the two will operate and feed the other if any breakdown occurs. Dr. Saher underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation in energy and electricity fields which is being carried out in implementation of a joint memorandum of understanding.

Dr. Saher started a two-week visit to Jordan last Saturday during which he held meetings with officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Jordan Electricity Authority and other departments to prepare the final version of the project plan before submitting it to the Jordan-Egyptian higher joint committee in its April meeting for approval.

On Wednesday the delegation visited the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) and were briefed on its programmes and services. They also toured parts of the Jordan Valley and inspected JEA projects there.

## W. Bank cooperatives thank government for its support

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from agricultural cooperative societies in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the government for its support and assistance to West Bank farmers.

Members of the delegation who spoke at the meeting referred in particular to government facilities extended to West Bank farmers to help them market their products in the East Bank and abroad.

Mr. Rifai welcomed the delegation who represent some

4,000 cooperatives in the West Bank and reaffirmed the government's determination to offer West Bank citizens all possible help to help them market their products.

The meeting at the prime minister's office was attended by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Mureid Al Tal and parliament members who represent the West Bank constituencies of Hebron, Nablus, Jericho, Jenin, Tulkarm, Ramallah and Salbit.

## Dudin briefs Belgian official on occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Eric Kobia, head of the Middle Eastern department at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday conferred with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin.

They discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Mr. Dudin spoke about the ordeal of the Arab inhabitants living under Israeli rule. The minister also detailed the Jordanian government's development plan for the occupied territory

which, he said, is aimed at bolstering the steadfastness of the Arab population in the face of Israel's inhuman practices.

At the meeting, views were exchanged about the latest developments in the occupied territory and Europe's role in helping to bring about a lasting settlement through an international conference.

Mr. Kobia who arrived here from Damascus is leaving today across the Jordan River for a visit to the occupied West Bank.

## Japan donates equipment and machinery to UNRWA centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese government has presented the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) with a gift of equipment and machinery worth \$228,000 for the benefit of trainees at the UNRWA Vocational Training Centre at Wadi Seer. The gift also included five vehicles and special equipment for testing vehicles.

Japanese Ambassador Akira Nakayama, who presented the gift to the centre, said that the Japanese people realise the hardships and sufferings of the

Palestinian people and will continue to offer contributions to support UNRWA's drive to offer training to Palestinian children.

A number of UNRWA officials were present at the ceremony during which the ambassador toured various parts of the centre and was briefed on their training programmes.

Japan this year made a contribution of \$9 million to UNRWA in cash and \$7.5 million in the form of in-kind contributions and training scholarships.

## Ministry honours working women raising families under hardship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirty Jordanian women who have offered outstanding service to their community and worked through hardship to raise and educate their families were honoured at a ceremony held here on Wednesday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The women selected from Amman, Madaba, Irbid, Al Husun, Jerash, Ajloun, the Jordan Valley, Karak, Zarqa, Mafrqa, Tafleh and Aqaba were described in a statement from the Queen's office as "exemplary individuals who have overcome hardships and single handedly raised their children under difficult circumstances." Despite the personal hardships they faced, these women worked diligently and selflessly for the sake of bringing up their children and, in the process, generated sufficient income to educate their children and hold the family together, the statement said.

The statement said that the honoured women embody the finest human values which they have passed on to their children and to their community and which their country in return, acknowledged by selecting them for the commendations.

According to the statement, the annual ceremony, organised jointly by the Ministry of Social Development and the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC), honours women from various sectors of society who have made outstanding personal contributions to the development of the Jordanian community. In the past, pioneer women in industry, science and banking were

honoured and this year's theme emphasised the role of mothers, the statement added.

The ceremony, held at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City, was addressed by Minister of Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and several other women speakers.

By honouring these 30 mothers, the minister said Jordan is recognising the significant role Jordanian women play in their homes and in society. Over the past three decades the image of Jordanian women has drastically changed and their contributions to society and participation in different fields of work has been instrumental in the development of the Kingdom, the minister added.

The other speakers included Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, chairperson of the Business and Professional Women's Federation, who paid tribute to the Queen for backing efforts designed to promote Jordanian women's standards and status in society. Mrs. Mufti paid special tribute to Arab women living under Israeli rule who, she said, have become a symbol of resistance to occupation and pioneers in confronting the challenges and the prevailing difficult economic circumstances resulting from occupation.

Mrs. Mufti paid tribute to the years in different fields ranging from school janitors to radio announcers and have brought up children, some of whom have obtained university degrees. Among those attending the ceremony were the wife of the prime minister, members of the diplomatic missions and an audience of invited guests.

## National committee formed to promote cultural ties, education opportunities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national selection committee, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, has been set up to promote cultural ties between Jordan and other countries. Among its activities is securing scholarships for Jordanian students at a number of colleges and universities grouped under the title United World Colleges (UWC) which was established in 1962. The committee has issued the following statement about UWC's activities and the committee's selection programme: "This year, and we hope in future years, Jordanian students are to be offered a new opportunity to study abroad. The United World Colleges are offering a small number of scholarships to Jordanian students for the school years 1987-1989.

each country that sends students. All are coeducational, and the language of instruction is English. As well as aiming at high academic standards, the colleges place great emphasis on such social service activities as sea and land rescue, help for the old, and work for the physically and mentally handicapped.

The colleges take students for their last two years of schooling, i.e. from the age of about 16 to about 18, and prepare them for the International Baccalaureate, an international school leaving examination which the colleges did much to establish, and which is now recognised by all universities of standing throughout the world.

The IB is a broadly-based programme which places particular emphasis on the student's ability to research, think and express himself, and which is designed to develop the whole of his personality, interests and abilities. The

student is required to study six subjects, including two languages (one being the student's mother tongue), maths, a science, and a Study of Man subject such as history, geography, economics or psychology. In addition, he has to complete a piece of original research, follow a course entitled "Theory of Knowledge," and participate in at least one creative, aesthetic or social services activity.

The United World Colleges began with the establishment of Atlantic College in 1962 in a medieval castle on the south coast of Wales. The experiment was a success, and other colleges were founded in Canada (1974), Southern Africa (1981), Singapore (1975), and Italy and the USA (1982). Plans are in hand for opening a further college in South America. The organisation is governed by an international council, the president of which is HRH the Prince of Wales."

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

## 'My Fat Friend' opens to enthusiastic audiences

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Theatre goes in Amman are bound to enjoy "My Fat Friend," a hilarious two-act comedy full of witty dialogue and fun-filled surprises. The play, currently being staged at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel playhouse, also features some of Britain's best loved actors and actresses, including John Inman, known to Jordan Television audiences for his role in the series "Are you being served?"

Its what's on the inside that counts is the main message behind Charles Laurence's almost two-hour comedy "My Fat Friend." Laurence, considered by drama critics as one of Europe's most successful playwrights, appears to not only have made the play a big theatrical hit when it was first staged in Madrid, but also here in Amman.

And, judging by the audience's positive reaction to the proceedings and by the warm welcome and support it received during the gala opening at the hotel on Tuesday, the play appears to be one of the best dinner theatre events staged so far at the hotel. "And indeed, in this very funny play, the author shows plenty of invention and a nice aptitude for witty dialogue and laughter-provoking situations," wrote one of Britain's newspaper theatre critics on the play.

The play's four-member cast who are the British Airways touring theatre group are Vicky (Patricia Brake), a 13-stone Hampstead bookseller, her two lodgers: James (Ian McCurrach), a young Scots novelist and Henry (John Inman) an outrageous tax collector, as well as Tom (Christopher Soule), a handsome, romantic geologist.

By sheer coincidence, Tom starts a relationship with Vicky a day before he leaves for Istanbul on an oil excavation mission. Vicky, always apathetic and frustrated about her inability to lose

weight, is driven by her lodgers to follow a determined weight losing campaign to shed those extra pounds with a whirlwind course of sauna baths and healthy runs on the beach.

Tom, loaded with presents and Turkish delight returns to Britain to discover that Vicky has lost four stone. Over-ridden by a feeling of dismay and shock, he walks out of her life.

It ends with a totally unexpected and hilarious climax involving Vicky and her two lodgers. Yet in the middle of all the fun Laurence keeps to a truth within his comic situations that makes the characters both real and sometimes touching.

Credit for the play's outstanding success should not only be given to its highly distinguished and professional cast which have had numerous successful appearances on television, on film and in theatre shows. Peter Coe, one of England's most distinguished theatre and film directors is to be given acclaimed credit for the effort he poured into the play to make it a true success. The outstanding script, a renowned professional cast and highly-skilled stage technicians all complement each other in the successful presentation of the play.

The play will continue at the hotel for three more days: March 19-21. The annual dinner theatre season is jointly organised by the hotel and British Airways.

## COMMUNIQUE DE L'AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

EN RAISON DU REPORT DE LA VISITE OFFICIELLE EN JORDANIE DU MINISTRE FRANCAIS DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, LA RECEPTION QU'IL DEVAIT OFFRIRE A LA COMMUNAUTE FRANCAISE CE SOIR 19 MARS A 18 HEURES A LA RESIDENCE DE FRANCE EST ANNULEE.

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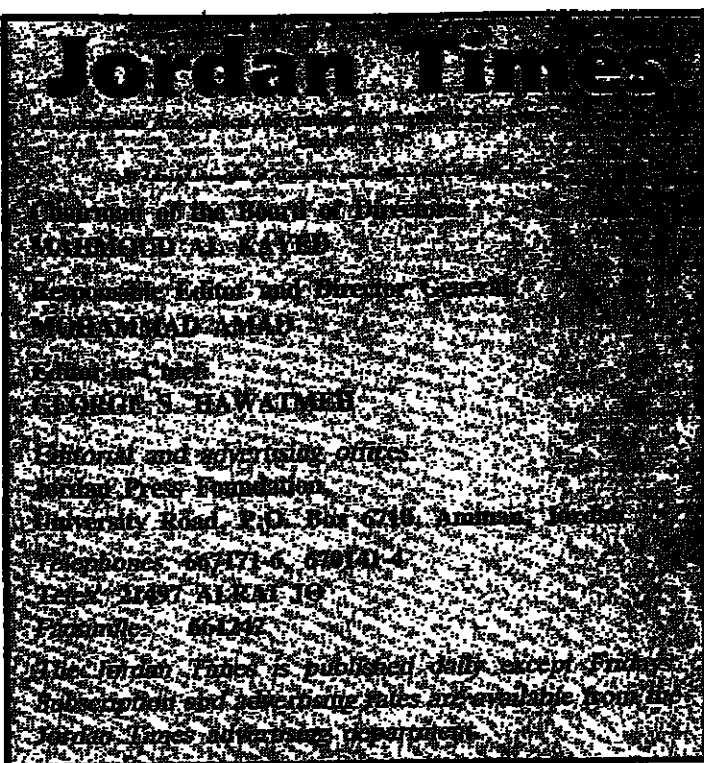
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## Iran seeing red

IT appears that two related developments influenced the Iranian leadership recently to step up efforts to woo the Soviet Union: first, with the public exposure of the clandestine arms deals with the U.S., an arms supply source has been at least temporarily blocked, affecting consequently the fighting capability of the Iranians; second, the Karbala-5 offensive turned catastrophically suicidal for the Iranian forces themselves and many Iranian cities had to take heavy poundings from Iraqi air raids. A way to mellow down Iraqi onslaughts until Iran could find replenishments for its fast depleting armory was to try to get the Soviet Union — Iraq's regular arms supplier — interested or involved in Iranian affairs. It was thought expedient, if possible, to diplomatically pressure the Soviets into adopting restrictive arms supply policies that would adversely affect Iraq. A vigorous diplomatic offensive was also seen as an attempt at stifling the Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty of 1972. The Soviets are certainly interested in maintaining good neighbourly relations with Iran but not at the expense of Iraq. However, the Soviet Union is least interested in seeing the two developing countries continuing a war at its doorstep. When Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vahidi made an official visit to Moscow in mid-February, he had to listen to some unpleasant lectures from the Soviets. The Soviet position was made clear to him: "Common sense suggests that main attention should be devoted not to the past but to the future — to securing that the war be discontinued. It's not in the interests of your people to have to expand cemeteries where war victims are buried. We are convinced a way must be searched for to end the war. We repeat what we have several times told the Iranian leadership: a day of fighting is worse than five years of talks."

Of late Khomeini has been blowing hot and cold against the U.S., accusing it of manipulating Gulf politics. This was again a signal to the Soviets to favourably consider resuming economic and technical cooperation, discontinued since 1983 when the pro-Moscow Tudeh party was castigated and 18 Soviet diplomats expelled. Iran is interested in getting Soviet technical cooperation for a wide range of projects such as aircraft, railways, atomic energy, dam construction and steel mills. 1,200 Soviet technicians engaged in constructing the Isfahan steel mill were withdrawn in 1985 for fear of Iraqi bombing. Iran is in dire strait for foreign exchange. Soviet transit routes for Iranian trade to the West and the Far East are important. Hence also, the leadership has been careful to cultivate the Soviets and maintain a pro-Soviet tilt in recent days.

The Soviets have one definite advantage. They need not have to resort to the method the U.S. adopted in trying to befriend the Iranian leadership. They would not have to carry, for example, a cake shaped in the form of a sickle and hammer and a copy of the Das Kapital to Tehran in order to elicit friendship and sort out outstanding issues. A red carpet would likely welcome Mr. Shevardnadze should he choose to visit Tehran and that would certainly be to the chagrin of the U.S. which would most likely interpret the event as "Iran gone red."

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Ungrateful Israel

DESPITE Israel's attempts to conceal the ramifications of the Pollard affair more details of the scandal continue to fill newspapers around the world. The Pollard scandal is a typical case of Israel's show of ungratefulness to countries that provide the Jewish state with all means of help and assistance. The Israelis had earlier stolen nuclear material for making the atomic bomb, and French gunboats from a port in France under de Gaulle's rule. It is true that the Pollard case is bound to cause a great damage to the prestige and credibility of the United States, but the classified information which Pollard had obtained, and the secrets this spy supplied to Tel Aviv are bound to do greater harm to the Arabs and help the Israelis to launch further acts of aggression anywhere in the Arab World. The United States had been continually supplying arms and financial assistance to the Jewish state in the belief that the stronger Israel is the greater the chances for peace will be. But the Pollard scandal has proved that Israel's military arsenal is not a tool for peace and that despite American assistance, the Israeli rulers will continue to violate peace and perpetrate their hold on Arab territory. Above all, U.S. unlimited supply of arms to Israel has clearly encouraged it to pursue its aggressive policies and its international espionage activity. The U.S. and the world at large should take a lesson from the Pollard affair, and realise the danger inherent in Israel's policies in the Middle East region.

#### Al Dustour: Pollards and Gentiles

THE Israeli leaders are nowadays concerned with the Pollard case, the Israeli spy who has been given a life sentence in the United States. The Israelis are trying with all their might to minimise the negative effects of this case on U.S.-Israeli relations because they are afraid of their far-reaching impact on the future aid to Israel. Among those bearing the brunt of the consequences of the affair are the American Jews who do not want to appear as spies for the Jewish state or a menace to U.S. security. Pollard was an American Jew spying for Israel and his actions can harm U.S.-Israeli relations and the status of the Jewish community in the United States. For this reason the Israeli government has now decided to set up an inquiry commission in a bid to mislead the American public opinion into believing that proper action will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such espionage activity. This move is taken in order to ensure that U.S. aid to Israel which comes out of American taxpayers' pockets will continue uninterrupted. But the Arabs hope that the American people in particular and the world at large will wake up and realise the double standards of the Jews and their underhand policies wherever they are and regardless of their nationality.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Scientific approach

THE government has decided to set up a higher council on science and technology, well aware of the role which such council can play in promoting development and achieving prosperity for the country. Jordan which enjoys a unique position in the region and continues to witness economic and social development is qualified to serve as a centre for science and technology; and therefore a national strategy in this respect is now required to enable science and technology to serve the Kingdom more effectively.

# Gorbachev walks tight rope with his 'glasnost'

By Fred Donovan

THE just concluded trial in Czechoslovakia of five members of the Jazz Section, an underground artists' group, highlights a potential conflict between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost and the Soviet Union's political management of its Eastern European neighbours.

The president of the banned group, Karel Srp, and the secretary, Vladimir Kouril, were sentenced to 16 months and 10 months in jail, respectively, for "economic crimes." These crimes include the publishing and selling of magazines and books after the Jazz Section was formally closed by the interior ministry in 1984.

Their relatively light sentence suggests uncertainty among Czechoslovakian leaders on how to deal with the liberalisation taking place within its ally, the Soviet Union. The more conservative members of the ruling party are no doubt reluctant to follow Mr. Gorbachev's lead, while other, more moderate leaders, probably welcome some of the Soviet leader's reforms.

But, what is most interesting about this trial is what it portends for developments in eastern Europe. A question naturally presents itself: how will Mr. Gorbachev handle the spreading of glasnost, his liberalisation programme, among his neighbours to the west?

Only the most dogmatic anti-communists in the West can pretend that what Mr. Gorbachev is doing in the Soviet Union is pure propaganda. There can be little doubt, considering the concrete steps so far taken, that Mr. Gorbachev is bent on a major overhaul of the Soviet system. At the very least, he appears set to loosen controls on the media, to decentralise the economy, and weed out corruption in the Soviet bureaucracy. It remains to be seen whether he will lead his country to full democracy.

He does appear to be moving full steam ahead with his reforms. The release of dissident physicist, Andrei Sakharov, was a milestone in this process. The distinguished physicist has been free to openly criticise the Soviet government and officials. And last month, the Kremlin freed 150 dissidents with a promise to release 150 more. In a speech to the Soviet Central Committee, Mr. Gorbachev blasted

official corruption and called for more democracy in party elections.

On the economic front, Mr. Gorbachev is pushing for greater efficiency, more free enterprise, and a reduction in drinking on the job. An unprecedented law, recently passed, allows Soviet companies to enter into joint ventures with foreign firms.

To carry out this ambitious reform programme, Mr. Gorbachev must walk a tightrope between the entrenched bureaucracy and the more ideologically conservative officials, on the one hand, and the centrifugal forces of the vast and ethnically diverse Soviet empire, on the other.

The West has not been helping Mr. Gorbachev at all in this difficult task. Rather, U.S. President Reagan's determination to pursue his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a space-based defence, has no doubt made matters more difficult for a Soviet leader who has taken the initiative on arms control. Should Mr. Gorbachev fail in persuading the United States to stop deployment of SDI, he may have a lot of explaining to do to more hard-line members in the Politburo. Furthermore, he may find them less receptive to his domestic reforms. His greatest challenge may come, however, from the countries of eastern Europe. For, it is in these countries that the spreading of glasnost could cause the most trouble for this charismatic Soviet leader.

Since the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union used the presence of its armies to install friendly governments in eastern Europe, the leadership has kept a close eye on its neighbours. Having paid an enormous price in the war, some estimates putting the death toll at 20 million people, the Soviet Union has been reluctant to loosen its grip on the "fruits" of the war, its buffer zone to the west. The Soviet invasions of Hungary in 1956, and of Czechoslovakia, to quell the "spring thaw" of 1968, attest to the Soviet determination to keep these governments "friendly."

Should Mr. Gorbachev's glasnost catch hold in eastern Europe, and demands for greater liberalisation take place, this could have political repercussions for Mr. Gorbachev in the Soviet Union. A

more independent eastern Europe, made up of countries and peoples which have lived in the shadow of Russian power for centuries, and Soviet power since WW II, is likely to be less pliant and more strident in its policies toward the Soviet Union. So far, the Soviet leader has been able to press his reforms without having to deal with significant disturbances in eastern Europe. He has visited all the countries there except Czechoslovakia, which he plans to visit next month — no doubt to show Soviet support for the present leadership and remind people that the Soviets have not "forgotten" their neighbours.

If Mr. Gorbachev is able to successfully walk his tightrope in the Soviet Union without a crisis in eastern Europe, he should consider himself lucky. If a crisis does develop, the Soviet leader's political skills will certainly be put to the test. He will either have to allow greater freedom and independence among his east European neighbours and risk a political backlash in the Soviet Union, or use Soviet military might to keep them in line. Should he choose the latter, his image in the West and around the world will be destroyed.

The West, however, should not work to force the issue. The United States, in particular, has encouraged challenges to the authorities in eastern Europe. Any abrupt changes, such as open revolt, could force Mr. Gorbachev's hand and bring Soviet force to bear on its neighbours. This would not be in the best interest of the West, for it could bring the ascendancy of conservative elements once again in the Soviet Union. Rather, the West should not make things any more difficult for Mr. Gorbachev than they already are. The West should give Mr. Gorbachev some time to see if he plans to expand his glasnost to eastern Europe.

If Mr. Gorbachev can deal successfully with a crisis in eastern Europe and gradually allow greater freedom there, without adverse political repercussions inside the Soviet Union, then he will surely go down in history as one of the greatest political masters of this or any other century. Events, however, have a way of upsetting the best laid plans, and of catching even political geniuses off-guard. Mr. Gorbachev, beware springtime in Prague.

## Arab Americans gearing up for 1988 election impact

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

WASHINGTON — "Americans of Arab ancestry have contributed greatly in every field, availing themselves of the freedoms and opportunities of this country," according to President Reagan.

In a message to those attending the Arab American Institute (AAI) conference in Washington, the president said, "Their industry, pride and exemplary patriotism have enriched our national life. Their concern for peace and justice in the Middle East helps us promote a negotiating process that will lead to peace and security for all peoples of the area."

"I commend your efforts to promote active involvement and participation in our political system. I am confident that your discussions and reflections can make a unique contribution."

More than 200 Arab Americans from 26 states gathered in the nation's capital March 13-15 to attend the third annual AAI conference.

Arab Americans have become increasingly savvy about ways to enter the political mainstream in the United States. The ground work is being laid for higher visibility in the 1988 presidential and congressional campaigns. Strategies are being planned, voters are registering, funds raising

is taking place and additional Arab American candidates are stepping forward.

The 2.5-million Arab Americans have yet to stockpile sufficient political clout to be a force throughout the country, but their numbers are sufficient in key areas such as Chicago, Detroit, Houston and San Francisco that effective organisation is likely to ensure their collective voice will be heard. Participation, at all levels, is the key to visibility.

"A Strategy to Win" was the theme of this year's leadership conference. While conference attendees sought to sharpen their political tools and strategies, they had an opportunity to hear from would-be presidential candidates who wished to solicit support and spark debate.

Senate minority leader Robert Dole was the first to address the group. Although Dole has yet to publicly announce his candidacy, he clearly feels he has "a good opportunity" to secure the Republican nomination and, looking toward the future, said, "I would hope we would continue our efforts to deal with moderate Arab elements around the world."

Dole, who also spoke at AAI's inaugural conference in March 1985, said U.S. policy should be even-handed in the Middle East and he suggested that "a dialogue with all the interested parties" is

necessary. He stressed, however, that "the leadership in the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is going to have to shape-up and, at least, recognise Israel's right to exist."

The president's special assistant for defence and foreign policy brought a message for the group. Linas Kojelis said, "You get influence, you get power by being part of the (political) process." He told them that he is "very optimistic" that the door is open to them in the Republican Party and at the White House.

He also congratulated the Arab Americans for being "absolutely, one of the stars" in the ethnic movement in the U.S. Kojelis is in a position to know, as he deals with 80 different ethnic groups at the White House.

Conference attendees honoured Mitchell Daniels, who is the 1987 recipient of AAI's public service and leadership award. Daniels serves at the White House as assistant to the president for political and intergovernmental affairs. He is the highest ranking Arab-American to serve in the Reagan Administration, or any previous U.S. administration. He is of Syrian ancestry.

George Salem, Department of Labour solicitor and the highest ranking Palestinian in the U.S. government, introduced Labour Secretary William Brock. Regardless of your political color-

ation, Brock said, "the important point is that you be involved." Brock also said, "This community of yours is part of the heartbeat of this country."

The mayor of Yonkers, New York made an appearance at the conference. Angelo Martinelli was there to deliver the message that, "every ethnic group has a right to representation and a piece of the (American political) pie."

In Yonkers Arab Americans are "out there in front" and "recognised as a regular (political) force," according to the mayor. Martinelli pointed out that he appointed the first Arab American to the Yonkers Board of Education.

A variety of workshops were organised for conference participants. They learned how to become delegates for national party conventions and how to conduct voter registration drives. They also learned how to work in a national campaign and how to activate strategies for airing Arab-American issues at state party conventions and platform hearings.

Administration officials reviewed domestic and international issues at the conference. Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asia affairs, examined U.S. policy on the Middle East with respect to the peace process

and Lebanon. The peace process requires that attitudes and perceptions be changed, Murphy explained, noting that the U.S. has seen psychological changes there which it feels can be built upon. Visits to the region have also revealed sentiments favouring negotiations, he said. Murphy stressed that the U.S. seeks a comprehensive peace in the region via direct negotiations.

The U.S. urges an end to the fighting in Lebanon, Murphy said. The Reagan Administration continues to support "the independence and sovereignty of that country." The authority of the central government needs to be extended and all foreign forces removed, according to Murphy.

Jesse Jackson, a potential Democratic presidential candidate, also spoke to the group. He said, "We must never lose hope that the Palestinian people will become a sovereign state and a Palestinian citizen will have a passport from his own country." Congressman David Bonior addressed the issue of the Palestinians: "We have to make sure the Palestinians have a homeland."

A telephone press conference was set up with journalists and politicians in Jordan and AAI conference participants in Washington March 16 under the auspices of the U.S. Information Agency. Conference honouree Mitchell Daniels, in discussing

the American political system, said that "Arab Americans are becoming active in both parties in roughly equal measure." It is important for ethnic groups like Arab Americans "to plant a foothold very firmly in both camps."

Currently, Daniels said neither major political party is addressing actively "the special concerns of Arab Americans." He identified these concerns as fighting Arab-American discrimination and campaigning "for a more balanced policy in the Middle East."

AAI Executive Director James Zogby, another participant in the interview, noted that Arab Americans have come a long way in U.S. politics. "The government, at the highest levels, is paying attention to our problems today."

Dr. Zogby said, "We have this year, more Arab Americans holding public office across the country, as a result of the '85, '86, and '87 elections than we ever have had before." At the same time, he said extremist groups will seek to halt progress which has been achieved.

The political movement that Arab Americans are seeking to implement in the U.S., he cautioned, is part of an "evolutionary process" but he stressed that there is no "quick-fix" — U.S. Information Agency.

## Ethnic tensions mar tranquility of province

By Victor L. Simpson  
The Associated Press

BOLZANO, Italy — Hansi and Paolo are Italians, both born in Alpine Bolzano province but products of two different cultures that are struggling to coexist.

Blue-eyed, blond-haired Hansi, an 18-year-old carpenter from a mountain village, is doing his military service in the Italian army although he can barely speak the national language. Like most people in the province, his family speaks German.

Brown-eyed, olive-skinned Paolo, 23, is studying economics but worries about his future here because he can only speak a smattering of German.

Italian-speakers, a minority in the province that was separated from Austria after World War I, are concerned about a rise in terrorist attacks blamed on German-speakers that are stirring long-simmering ethnic tensions.

To Italians, the region is also adige; the German-speaking inhabitants call it South Tyrol. The official name of the province is Bolzano.

No one has been seriously hurt in the terror attacks. But on new year's eve, a powerful bomb believed planted by Tyrolian separatists exploded outside the hotel in Merano where Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti was staying.

In February, police arrested two alleged German-speaking extremists and seized seven explosive devices and a flag emblazoned with the slogan in German "60 years of (Italian) occupation are enough." A month later, police found 16 dynamite sticks and 50 detonators hidden outside Merano.

The violence has raised memories of the terrorist campaign in the 1960s that led to an agreement between Italy and Austria establishing the rights and privileges of the various ethnic groups in the province.

There are three distinct groups in Bolzano: The 280,000 German-speakers, the 124,000 Ita-

lian-speakers and the 18,000 who speak a romance language called Ladin.

The agreement, phased in gradually, has made Bolzano officially bilingual and produced a quota system that gives the German-speaking majority an advantage in obtaining jobs and public housing.

An improvement in the status of German-speakers was considered long-due following the attempt by Benito Mussolini, the dictator who ruled Italy from 1922 to World War II, to suppress Tyrolian culture. He banned the speaking of German and lured tens of thousands from elsewhere in Italy to work in industry, the state railroads and other government jobs.

In recent years, however, the Italian population has been shrinking, and Italian politicians have said German speakers have unfair advantages.

Shortly after the bombing, Andreotti said the government in Rome would protect the interests of German-speakers but also must "affirm the life and the development of the Italian minority."

The *Sudtiroler Volkspartei* (The South Tyrol Peoples Party), which runs the provincial government, has in turn asked Austria's help in ensuring that Italy sticks to the accords.

Paolo Auri, the economics student, believes the current policy will eventually drive out Italian-speakers like himself who can't pass the German exams needed for some jobs.

"My family should have made sure we learned German but now it's too late," he said.

While Italian-speakers are dependent on their quota to get jobs, many state posts in the province reportedly are vacant because German-speakers haven't come forward to fill the remaining posts. The Italian railroad, for instance, has had to import temporary help from other provinces.

## Saudi kidnap victim released after 66 days in captivity

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Berri refused to name Mr. Damanhuri's kidnappers stressing that "I want to save the others. I want to work for others."

Asked if Mr. Normandin would be released, Mr. Berri said: "What I said today is good. I think there is a chance, but it is quite complicated. It is not easy."

Mr. Berri said Mr. Normandin's case is "a question between states." He did not elaborate.

Beirut's authoritative daily paper *Al Nahar* said "Syrian pressure" resulted in "preventing

the Revolutionary Justice Organisation from executing Normandin."

It said the move "... could reflect positively" on Syria's plan to restore law and order in west Beirut.

Revolutionary Justice, in its Tuesday's statement, said it had postponed plans to kill Mr. Normandin for one week and demanded clarifications from France on its policy on terrorism and arms supplies to Iraq.

Brig. Kanaan, who supervised the Syrian deployment in west Beirut, expressed hope that all remaining hostages would be released alive.

"After receiving information on Damanhuri and his place (of captivity), Amal undertook to release him alive," he said. Syrian troops have not moved into Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs where kidnappers are believed to have hideouts.

Mr. Berri dismissed questions about why the hostages had not been located. "Tell me which street in the southern suburbs, which building they are held in, so I can know and work on it."

Mr. Berri said he was still working on a plan to exchange an Israeli airman captured by Amal for 400 Arab prisoners held in Israel as a means to secure the

release of four foreign academics kidnapped in Beirut on Jan. 24.

He said his inquiries had produced no word on John McCarthy, a British television journalist abducted last April.

"I work on that, I didn't arrive to any solution," Mr. Berri said. He said Mr. Hariri, a Lebanese-born Saudi millionaire, had asked him in Damascus to help secure Mr. Damanhuri's release.

"We thank (Syrian) President Hafez Al Assad for working on Damanhuri's release as well as Nabih Berri and his Amal movement," Mr. Hariri told the news conference.



Mother's Day

Say it with flowers

Flower Farmers

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



# Mystery still surrounds disastrous ferry voyage

By Robert Burns  
The Associated Press

**ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium** — More than a week after the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry, mystery still surrounds the critical 20 minutes that led to one of Europe's worst peacetime sea disasters.

At 7:08 p.m. on a cold, clear March 6, the jumbo ferry pulled out of berth No. 12.

At 7:28 p.m., with little warning, it flopped onto its port side and sank with stunning speed — in less than one minute by some accounts.

One hundred thirty-four people are believed to have died in the disaster, although most of the bodies have yet to be recovered from the ship.

Investigators were able to quickly establish that the ship took on massive amounts of seawater through its bow loading doors. But they have yet to fully answer a series of other, equally important questions.

Why were the bow doors open? What happened to allow seawater to enter the doorway, which normally clears the water line by at least 2.4 metres?

Why is the capsize vessel facing back toward the harbour instead of toward the open sea?

Accounts by survivors have shed little light on the exact cause of the accident, and the official Belgian and British investigating teams have said they will not comment publicly until their studies are completed.

After a grueling series of recovery efforts, 55 bodies have been found. Official estimates of the number of bodies entombed in the half-submerged ship vary, but Townsend Thoresen, the ferry's

operator, says it believes 79 corpses will be found when the wreckage is recovered.

The ship lies in nine metres of water, the port side resting in the sandy bottom.

"In a real sense, it is a grave," says Peter Ford, the ferry company's chairman. Many of those in it, he says, may never be identified.

Four hundred and nine people, including the ship's captain, 46-year-old David Lewry, survived. Most had been in the cafeteria and other upper sections of the triple-deck ferry. Some suffered only minor injuries. Many, however, were lacerated or smashed by waves of glass, steel and human forms that swept the decks as the ship heeled over.

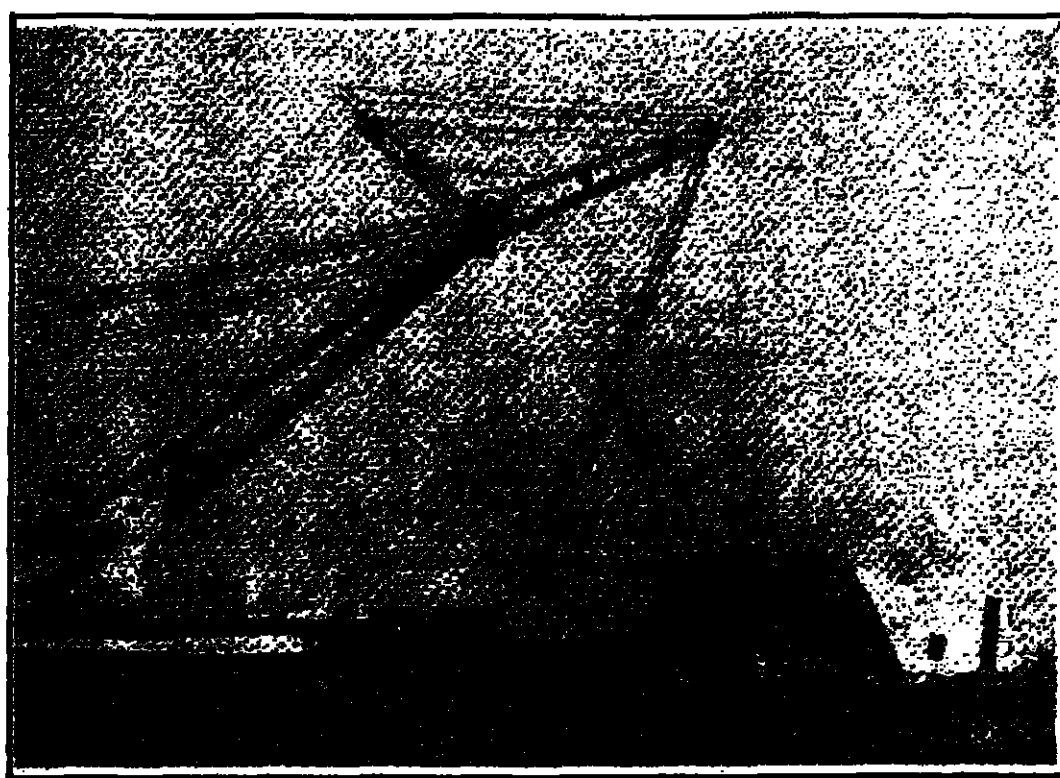
Survivors have said the 7,951-tonne Herald of Free Enterprise began to list to the port side almost immediately after it left the harbour entrance and entered the North Sea. The entire ship would have become submerged if not for the fact that it sank in relatively shallow waters.

Some managed to save themselves and others by scrambling above the water line, breaking through plate-glass windows and hoisting themselves out of the stricken hull. There were reports of people forming human chains to pass one another up into the open air of freedom.

One man was seen carrying a young girl to safety by grasping her shirt in his teeth.

Rescuers who arrived on the scene minutes after the accident are credited with saving many lives.

Townsend Thoresen and the Belgian and British authorities have heaped praise on the emergency crews and volunteers



A barge bearing a salvage crane was positioned early this week beside the Herald of Free Enterprise in the harbour of Zeebrugge, Belgium. Operations

to refloat the ship and seek to recover up to 81 bodies were expected to begin this week.

who responded to the crisis. But none yet has been able to explain exactly how it happened.

Townsend Thoresen has acknowledged that the ferry's vehicle hold was flooded by seawater that entered through the bow's steel loading doors. But there has been no official explanation of what let the seawater in.

Some eyewitnesses have said the bow doors were not closed when the ferry left the harbour. That doesn't explain, though, what caused the bow opening to dip low enough to reach the water

line. The seas were calm that evening.

One theory is that there was too much ballast in the bow, and that once the ferry had turned around inside the harbour and was moving forward at a slight angle to the port side, water was washed in through the bow doors.

The weight of the water would make the ship list even more, allowing more water to enter and prevent the ship from righting itself.

Another possibility mentioned by some maritime experts is that

some portion of the ship, perhaps the propellers or a part of the keel, struck an underwater object as the ferry was leaving the harbour entrance. That could have forced the ship to dip enough to allow water into the bow doors.

Townsend Thoresen and the salvage company it hired, Smit Tak International of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, both say there is no evidence that any section of the ferry — including the propellers — had been damaged.

Still another theory is that the ferry, for some unexplained

reason, made a sudden swerve to the right as it was passing the port's outer seawall. This might have caused the ship to lean radically to port side — much like the effect on a car turning sharply at high speed.

The exact cause of the disaster may not be known for several weeks or months. In the meantime, Smit Tak is working day and night to complete the monumental task of uprighting the Herald of Free Enterprise.

Hans Walenkamp, who is leading the Smit Tak salvaging work, said Friday he expects to have the ferry back on its keel by the end of March.

Using an estimated 4,000 tonnes of pulling force, two Smit Tak crane barges — both anchored to the seabed by 60-foot steel girders — will yank the ferry up by metal cables welded to strong points on its main deck.

Once the ferry is uprighted, the water inside it will be pumped out and the vessel will be towed back into Zeebrugge harbour. Then will come the gruesome task of removing and trying to identify the remaining bodies.

For all the shock felt by the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise, passengers continue to ride Townsend Thoresen ferries from Zeebrugge.

Six days after the disaster, Derek Hunter, a British army private based in West Germany, strode into the Townsend Thoresen ticket office at Zeebrugge harbour and booked a one-way passage to Dover.

Did he have any fear of retracing the path of the Herald of Free Enterprise?

"No, not at all. I have to get home," he said with a smile. "I'm going to get married."

Randa Habib's

## Straight and level

It was only recently that I came to realise that, after all, we have made a big fuss about nothing. We have apparently misunderstood the government's newly-imposed fees and taxes.

For example, the JD 150 fee for obtaining a work permit for a foreign domestic helper means an extra JD 14 a month, which is equivalent to the cost of one visit to the hairdresser and one present to a relative or friend.

Imagine, if you wish, how easy it is going to be for you to recognise those ladies and gentlemen who have a domestic helper at home and insist on keeping her despite the new fees that they may not be able to afford and on the other hand it is also easy to recognise those who can.

A person with long, messy hair should be immediately identified as falling in the first category as does the woman who does not buy a present for her friend, her sick relative or her good neighbour.

As for those who would never even think of having expensive hair cuts or buying presents — such as the low-paid secretary, the under-paid school teacher, the nurse and many more — and who have a helper at home would have to give up their jobs and stay at home to care for their children.

This would also be a lesson for them not to act like rich people when they are not, and not to indulge in luxury when they could not afford it. It is true that people are equal in principle, but, in reality, we should not let it slip our minds that there are people who are more equal than others.

As for those women who work because they want to pursue a career and because they have hopes to contribute to the country's development, let them come up with the JD 150, or forever stop having dreams they can't afford.

You see, there was no need for us to make such a big fuss. Remember the story of Christopher Columbus? Not the one about discovering America, but his discovery of a way to make an egg "stand" on an even surface. It only takes some imagination.

## Star Wars shadow falls over space station

Some western nations are uneasy about the joint-venture manned space station planned with the U.S. for launch in the 1990s. Peter Marsh says that they worry that the orbiting centre could be used for Star Wars purposes.

**LONDON** — The highly controversial U.S. Star Wars programme is casting its shadow over the plans of the main industrialised nations to build a \$12 billion manned space station in the 1990s for use by international teams of scientists.

The U.S. is discussing the station — intended primarily for civilian use — with Western Europe, Japan and Canada. Negotiations are at a critical phase, with legal agreements between the countries scheduled for the summer, in time for development work to start later in the year.

In recent weeks, however, the other nations have realised that the orbiting base, which is intended to accommodate eight people and to be in place by 1994, could become a vehicle for experiments conducted under the \$26 billion Star Wars programme, more formally called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The space-based experiments could include research into laser weapons and satellite-based sensors, which could form part of an operational shield to defend the West from Soviet nuclear missiles.

The subject of Star Wars is likely to surface at a meeting in Paris at which officials from the 12-nation European Space Agency will press U.S. negotiators for more details about possible military plans for the base.

So far, the U.S., which a little over three years ago invited the other countries to participate in the station project on the basis of a partnership, has refused to give assurances about the Star Wars issue. It says, however, that the base will not be used for de-

ploying weapons. Of the estimated \$12 billion the station will cost, the U.S. is due to contribute \$8 billion.

The U.S. position, outlined to the other nations at a meeting in Washington is that it reserves the right to use the U.S. part of the orbiting base for unspecified military activities related to research. Officials say that no specific military activities are planned for the station. On the other hand, they have not ruled out use of the base for experiments.

A comprehensive U.S. policy over the station has been hammered out in recent weeks by an interdepartmental review group, including the Defence Department, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.

These bodies have become involved in the details of space station planning only since last autumn. Hitherto, international discussions about the base had been led by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the State Department.

Given the doubts which exist about Star Wars among many of the governments talking to the U.S. about the space station, the other countries are reluctant to accept the U.S. stance over military activities on the base.

An official from the British National Space Centre said he found parts of the U.S. proposals "disturbing".

Mr. Jan Stjernstedt, director-general of the Swedish Board for Space Activities, said he could not accept use of the station for any secret military activities. These could include experiments related to Star Wars. — Financial Times feature.

## Giant atom-smasher could unlock secrets of universe

By David Brough  
Reuters

**WASHINGTON** — A proposed \$4.4-billion ring of magnets, 89.7 kilometres around and capable of smashing tens of thousands of atoms a second, may help illuminate the origins of the universe, scientists say.

Proponents of the planned new super-powerful atom smasher concede its day-to-day applications are unclear, but they say practical benefits always flow from such devices and the advance in scientific knowledge would be immense.

The underground smasher — formally, a "superconducting super collider (SSC)" or "particle accelerator" — has been approved by President Reagan as a long-term U.S. department of energy project with a target completion date of 1996.

However, Congress must each year approve the proposed development budgets expected to total \$4.4 billion.

"The accelerator could give a deep insight into the fundamental structure of matter and energy," said Jack Sandweiss, a Yale University physics professor who heads an energy department advisory panel.

Energy Secretary John Herrington described the project in rapturous terms at a news conference, saying, "in high-energy physics, the development of the super collider is the equivalent of putting a man on the moon."

The device will consist of two rings of giant magnets laid out in a 8.37-kilometre, racetrack-shaped tunnel 10 feet in diameter.

Particles of matter called protons, considered a fundamental part of the nucleus of all atoms, will race around the rings at velocities nearing the speed of light — 186,000 miles (299,274 kilometres) a second — and collide with an energy of 40 trillion electron volts.

That is 20 times the energy created by any existing high-energy accelerator, scientists say.

The expectation is that the resultant explosion will simulate on a tiny scale the "big bang" that many physicists believe created the universe, and mimic its results by breaking the protons into previously unknown bits of matter.

"I think one of the greatest intellectual adventures of our time is the fact that we can sort of conceive of the idea that the universe had perhaps a beginning," Alvin Trivelpiece, director of the energy department's Office of Energy Research, said at a news conference on the project.

"What are we made of? What are the most fundamental building blocks? That's one of the most interesting intellectual challenges of our time. And the SSC

is the kind of tool that makes that possible."

Besides expanding knowledge about the nature of matter and the origins of the universe, proponents say, the big smasher might also shed light on the hypothetical end of the universe.

Scientists believe sub-atomic particles as yet undiscovered make up much of the mass of the universe and theorise that, if they could learn the nature of this mass, they could calculate whether the universe will expand forever or one day contract.

Both Switzerland and the Soviet Union are building similar super colliders, scheduled for operation in the mid-1990s, but scientists say neither will be as powerful as the U.S. model.

The multi-billion-dollar price tag, however, has caused concern among U.S. government officials and politicians and made the debate over practical benefits an important one.

Herrington insists the expense is justified because, judging from prior research in high-energy physics, the smasher "will have spinoffs, discoveries and innovations that will profoundly touch every American."

While SSC advocates concede they cannot predict precisely what tangible advances might result, they say such past projects have led to developments in nuclear power, medicine, advanced electronics, computer chips and food processing.

"If this doesn't (lead to similar breakthroughs)... it will be the first time in the history of building any of these accelerators or telescopes or whatever," Trivelpiece said.

"Probably something like a third of our gross national product owes its existence to our knowledge of the atom and its sub-atomic parts: the electron, proton and neutron."

"There isn't a thing around you that isn't based on that particular knowledge base — nuclear power, nuclear medicine, the Strategic Defence Initiative (Reagan's Star Wars missile defence plan) that the United States is currently developing."

"All of those things owe their existence to knowledge gained over the past 20, 30, 40 years."

But Trivelpiece rejected suggestions the accelerator was being designed with military purposes in mind.

"The military application of this I don't believe exists," he said.

One non-scientific benefit of the project is already clear and stirring intense interest, however — a lucrative economic spin-off for the locale chosen as the site of this immense federal construction project, expected to employ nearly 5,000 workers in the building stage.

## Prolonged use of hashish 'a serious threat to health'

By Dieter Schwab

**MUNICH** — Many still people think that hashish, the hippy drug, is harmless. They are wrong. Regular use over years can seriously damage the health. A report shows that prolonged use can cause feelings of isolation, chronic feelings of indifference and other psychological problems.

Hashish comes from the resin of the female plant *Cannabis sativa* var. *indica*. Its leaves contain the narcotic marijuana. There is not enough awareness of its toxicity, not are there social rules which restrain unbridled consumption as in the case of alcohol.

This has intensified the problem as recent studies of the problem at the University Clinic of Erlangen-Nuremberg confirms. They researched the effects of 53 heavy smokers of the drug. Most of them have smoked at

least a gramme a day for at least two years. A fifth of them have been at it more than 12 years.

Krista Stosberg and Harald J. Losch concluded that the drug can cause serious damage.

More than 80 per cent of those studied came from problem families. The father or mother was often managing alone. The family often had a drug dependent user or a member on the brink of suicide. A fifth of the participants had tried to kill themselves.

Such family circumstances and resulting developmental problems are one cause of drug abuse. Contact with the drug started in most cases between 13 and 17. They experienced a host of pleasant feelings ranging from happiness to relaxation and peacefulness.

But when interviewed they admitted to the drug's negative effects. Three quarters of them spoke of occasional circulatory problems and vomiting.

Other effects were changes in perception of time and body accompanied by the distorting of space and colour.

Problems often followed after the high had worn off. The user becomes listless and tired and finds himself wanting to take the drug again.

Eberhard Lungershausen, the clinic director, looks upon such symptoms as signs of addiction. And Krista Stosberg thinks that "consumption of hashish cannot be part of everyday life because it destroys social order."

One can see this in the educational opportunities of smokers. Despite their being of normal or above average intelligence none had a university degree. A few managed to get a secondary leaving certificate.

Admittedly all were employed but not in jobs corresponding to their abilities. Most knew the drug was detrimental to motiva-

tion. Three quarters of them felt that it damaged performance at work. More than half suffered regularly from motivation and performance problems.

These tendencies were intensified in a sub-culture which took the use of the drug for granted. About 90 per cent of users said that some of their friends and wives used the drug.

Stosberg calls this a social vortex. "The effect of the drug, she said, "could best be seen in the area of socialisation."

Even in leisure time the drug seemed to be the only interest.

Nearly a half the participants had had an accident at some time. Recent consumption of hashish was not the only explanation. After years of use the drug take years to be broken down by the body and therefore exercises a continuous influence — *Süd-deutsche Zeitung*.

## Insults, bullets fly across Cypriot 'dead zone'

By Katherine McElroy  
Reuters

**NICOSIA** — United Nations soldiers keep the peace along military lines dividing Nicosia to the sound of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots hurling insults at each other.

But sometimes events get out of hand and bullets replace the insults.

During the last three years two Greek Cypriot soldiers have been shot dead across the buffer zone, which shrinks from seven kilometres at its widest to three metres at its narrowest in the centre of Nicosia.

UNFICYP (U.N. Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus) observation posts dot the entire 230-kilometre length of the zone, called the "dead zone" by Greek Cypriots, that runs from one end of the island to the other.

It is bordered by the Turkish ceasefire line to the north, and the Greek Cypriot one to the south, drawn up in 1974 after Turkey invaded the island and occupied the northern third.

For UNFICYP, maintaining the status-quo in the buffer zone area can mean painting a white line on a wall to see if rows of bricks are being added to improve defences.

In a recent incident UNFICYP caused flags raised in the zone to be removed because they violated the status-quo.

"Last year we had a war of lights in the buffer zone," said U.N. military spokesman Alex Twickel.

"It started when one side put up a light that the other side claimed was illuminating its positions. It retaliated, putting up a light of its own. Soon a whole stretch of line was lit up."

"We were worried that the tit-for-tat escalation of lights could develop into stone throwing, or that someone would take a

pot shot at the lights," Twickel said.

"But UNFICYP managed to convince both sides to bring the lights down before the situation got worse."

Fusilier Frederick Merson of the British contingent with UNFICYP, speaking at his post on the edge of Nicosia, said tension is high between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish army.

"At night you hear lots of jeering between troops in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish guardposts," he said. Turkish Cypriots also guard some parts of the line.

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## FIFA to review ban after N. Korean no-show

ZURICH (R) — International soccer authorities will review a decision to exclude North Korea from the 1988 Olympic competition, a spokesman for the international football federation (FIFA) said.

North Korea was automatically disqualified after its national team failed to appear at an Asian region qualifying match in Kuala Lumpur Monday but Pyongyang has protested that it should be exempt from qualifying since it is co-hosting the Olympic Games.

"Our sub-committee for emergency matters will be reviewing the whole affair," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni told Reuters.

Officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have been working for months to reach a compromise on North Korea's

demand that it jointly host the Games.

Tognoni said that rules of the Olympic soccer tournament made FIFA the federation responsible for taking a decision on the matter. Under normal IOC procedures, failing to appear at a qualifying competition brings disqualification.

IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier concurred that FIFA was empowered to rule on the issue. "This is a technical matter within FIFA's jurisdiction," she said.

Preliminary ties have already started for 15 available berths. The South Korean side, as official host, have been given the 16th place.

The North Korean team had been scheduled to play Thailand in Kuala Lumpur.

## Arsenal's title hopes suffer another blow

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's English First Division title hopes suffered another blow when it was held to a goalless draw at home to Nottingham Forest.

The fans seemed to be getting the message, only 18,352 turning out after Arsenal's exit from the Football Association (FA) Cup on Saturday at the hands of Watford and the league defeat by champion Liverpool a week ago.

Arsenal, although with a game in hand, now trails Liverpool by nine points and any hopes this season look to lie in the League Cup final where it meets — Liverpool.

With central defender Dave O'Leary joining its casualty list, Arsenal should have been a goal down after two minutes.

## Brazil's Socrates retires from soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Socrates, the lanky midfielder who was considered one of Brazil's most skilled soccer players in the past decade, announced that he was retiring from the sport.

Socrates, 33, said it was unfair for him to keep drawing his salary from Rio's Flamengo club, where he was a reserve and recovering from a series of injuries. "The important thing is to be at peace with my conscience. I could not continue receiving a high but underserving salary," Socrates told reporters.

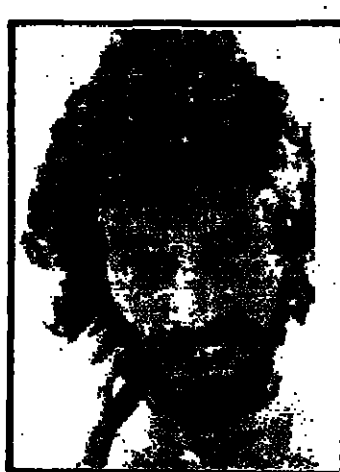
Socrates earned an estimated \$4,500 a month, plus an undisclosed amount in bonuses and prize money.

The surprise announcement on his retirement upset many of his fans and colleagues.

"Socrates could still play for a long time. He is a rare talent. Flamengo will miss him, Brazilian soccer will miss him, and most of all, those who admire clear, elegant soccer will miss him," said midfielder Falcão, a former teammate of Socrates on Brazil's 1982 World Cup team.

Socrates Brasileiro Sampaio de Souza Vieira de Oliveira began his career in 1974, playing for the modest Botafogo club in the rural city of Ribeiro Preto with his brothers Sotenes, Sotocles and Raimundo.

Socrates quickly gained nation-



al attention with his elegant style of play and his trademark, a behind-the-back pass with his heel that caught many defenders flat-footed.

"Intelligent, creative, capable of treating the ball with surgical efficiency and precision, Socrates was never one of that small group of stars from whom soccer is the greatest emotion ...." soccer commentator Claudio Mello E Souza wrote Tuesday in his daily column for the Rio newspaper O Globo.

In 1978, Socrates was transferred to Corinthians of Sao Paulo, one of the country's most popular clubs, although he said he disagreed with the "authoritarian" way the club was run.

The following year he was named to the national soccer team which was described by many experts as the best Brazilian squad since the 1970 world champion team led by Pelé. In the 1982 World Cup in Spain, Brazil was eliminated in the quarter-finals but was hailed by fans and critics for its brilliant, creative play.

Back in Brazil, Socrates founded the so-called "Corinthians democracy" movement, a revolutionary concept that gave players a voice in running the team. On the field, he led Corinthians to its first state title in 22 years.

In 1984, Socrates signed a multi-million dollar contract with Fiorentina of Florence, Italy. But he never fully adapted to Italian soccer and was criticised for the team's mediocre play.

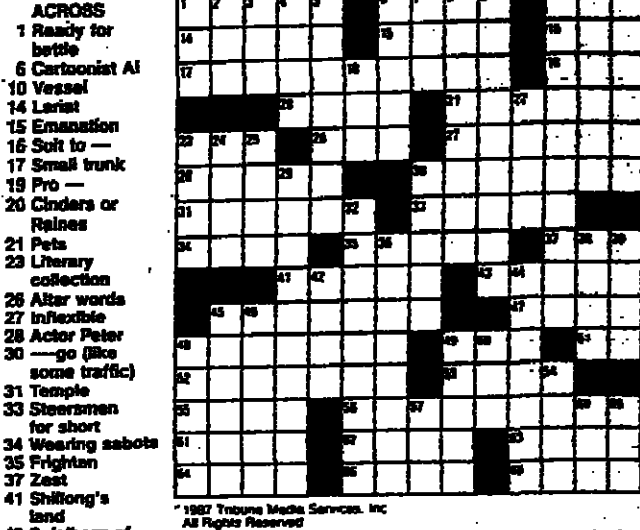
After 11 months, he returned to Brazil and signed with Flamengo, where fans envisioned a "dynamic duo" of Socrates and Zico in the midfield. But it was not to be. Both players were injured and spent months in recuperation. They played together again briefly on Brazil's 1986 World Cup team in Mexico.

Seen as the last hurrah for a generation of stars.

Returning to Brazil, Socrates underwent back surgery and managed to play only a handful of games for Flamengo.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Mabel Korman



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ACROSS	1 Ready for battle	6 Cartoonist Al	10 Vessel	14 Lariat	15 Emulsion	16 Soft to —	17 Small trunk	19 Pro —	20 Cinders or talc	21 Pets	22 Literary collection	26 After words	27 Infestible	28 Actor Peter	30 —go (like)	31 Temple	33 Steersman	34 For short	35 Wearing sabote	37 Frighten	38 Zest	41 Shilong's	43 Spielberg of	45 Declaimers	47 Fearless	48 Fardous	49 Put a lid on	51 Negative	52 Repeat	53 Olive genus	55 Wife of a baronet	56 Having control	61 Buffalo's lake	62 Granular snow	63 Hub out	64 Old Eng. gold piece	65 Facial expression	66 Challenged	DOWN	1 Sled's bark	2 — Grande	3 — Tae-tung	4 Diminutive suffix	5 Lethargic	6 Chocolate source	7 Driving bird	8 Wolf or coyote	9 Inconspicuous	10 Railroad employee	11 Language of Ecuador	12 "Great God, we spring, to them —"	13 Window	18 Ancient	22 Neck part	23 Humble's obstacle	24 Ham's father	25 Jason's ship	29 Fisherman's equipment	30 Rip-offs	32 Agreeing	36 Rascals driver?	38 Eng. river	39 Verne captain	40 Impact	42 Kyst	44 Decreased	45 Kind of engine	46 Blood confection	48 Apple juice	49 Morris or	50 Cereus Rex	54 Mode or cars	56 Indian city	57 106	58 Corn unit	59 Sugar suffix	60 Nourished
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## 300 camels race to start Saudi festival

JANADRIYYAH, Saudi Arabia (R) — Three hundred camels raced at breakneck speed in a cloud of dust Wednesday, watched by sheikhs and princes from across the Arabian peninsula.

It signalled the start of a two-week cultural festival and one of the biggest camel racing events in the Arab World.

More than 1,000 camels were expected to compete in races on the first two days. Spectators talked of prizes such as gold daggers, cars and cash.

The camels careered around a sand track at Janadriyyah, a reconstructed medieval Saudi village 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the capital, Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz headed the dignitaries at the official opening. Foreign diplomats

mingled with Arab royalty to witness the spectacle.

Outside the track, hundreds of Saudis watched the action through binoculars from the tops of their cars.

The opening race Wednesday morning was reserved for Sudanese male camels. Arabian females were competing in the afternoon.

Shabib, from the Wadi Dawasir oasis southeast of Riyadh, arrived nine days ago with his camels, camping out near the racetrack. He failed to finish in the first 100.

"I come every year. This time I was not lucky," he said.

Two Saudi princes split the top four spots in the morning race — Saud bin Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz, a nephew of King Fahd,

took first and fourth with his camels. Mohammad bin Saud Al Kabeer, a cousin of the king, gained second and third.

The winning jockey was Mohammad Obeid, a 14-year-old boy from Kassala in eastern Sudan. He and many other jockeys were brought to the kingdom especially for the festival.

Officials see the event as part of efforts to preserve traditional life, threatened by the rapid development of the past 15 years fuelled by oil revenues.

## Wizards cast spells to help Napoli's chances

AVELLINO, Italy (R) — A group of Italian wizards began a series of mystical rites in support of the title hopes of First Division leader Napoli and its Argentine captain Diego Maradona.

A statement issued by the Italian Wizards' Association said they had started seven days of magical spells "in order to wipe out any obstacles to Napoli's winning the league title."

The Wizards, who sprinkled incense in front of giant posters of Maradona in the hills near this southern town, said some of Napoli's opponents had obtained the services of a Peruvian magician in an attempt to stop Maradona's team winning the championship for the first time.

Eyewitnesses said several spectators at the ceremony threw stones and rotten fruit at the Wizards.

Napoli have a five-point lead with two months of the season.

## American NBA roundup

### Atlanta Hawks rolls over Washington

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Hawks rolled over the Washington Bullets 118-98 to climb within one-half game of the Detroit Pistons in the National Basketball Association's Central Division. Dallas clinched a playoff berth for the fourth year in a row with a 114-96 victory Tuesday night over the Chicago Bulls.

Elsewhere, it was Milwaukee 123, Boston 115, Utah 118, Golden State 103, Portland 134, Los Angeles Clippers 123, Denver 135, New York 111, Cleveland 110, New Jersey 91, and San Antonio 108, Sacramento 106.

In Dallas, Mark Aguirre scored 31 points and Sam Perkins added 27 while the Bulls, who suffered their sixth consecutive loss, were led by Charles Oakley with 23.

Chicago's Michael Jordan was held to 21 points, well below his league-leading average of 36.9, and only the third time this season he wasn't the Bulls' high scorer.

In Milwaukee, John Lucas scored 26 points and Jack Sikma had eight key points in the fourth quarter as Milwaukee beat Boston for the third time in five meetings.

Kevin McHale led the Celtics

with 31 and Larry Bird added 24.

In Salt Lake City, Darrell Griffith scored 26 points and Rickey Green added 22 and 13 assists as Utah remained six games behind first-place Dallas in the Midwest Division. Griffith scored 22 points in the second half when the Jazz pulled away.

Karl Malone, Utah's leading scorer, was held to six points in the first half but added 11 in the second half. Chris Mullin led Golden State with 24 points.

In Los Angeles, Kiki Vandeweghe scored 30 points and three teammates added 21 as Portland equalled last year's total of 40 victories.

The Trail Blazers got 21 points from guards Clyde Drexler and Terry Porter and reserve forward Jerome Kersey en route to their sixth straight triumph over the host Clippers.

Los Angeles, 11-52, suffered its eighth loss in nine games despite a career-high 33 points off the bench by Lancaster Gordon.

In New York, Bill Hanzlik scored 19 of his 22 points and Alex English 18 of his 26 as Denver outscored New York 70-51 in the middle two quarters and won for only the sixth time in 32

road games.

Trent Tucker scored a career-high 31 points for the Knicks but Patrick Ewing was held to 11 points, half his average, leading several disgruntled fans to toss a life-size poster of the 7-foot centre onto the court in the second half. The Knicks had billed the game as Patrick Ewing poster night in honour of St. Patrick's Day.

In New Jersey, Rookie Cleveland guard Ron Harper scored 32 points, including 14 as the Cavaliers took control in the third quarter and snapped a six-game road losing streak with only their second triumph in their last 23 road games. Buck Williams had 20 points for New Jersey, which played without centre Mike Gminski.

In Sacramento, reserve guard Johnny Moore made two free throws with two seconds left as San Antonio, rallied from a 16-point deficit in the final 9 minutes. Alvin Robertson scored 30 points and Walter Berry 28 as the Spurs snapped a seven-game road losing streak.

The Kings led 94-78 with 9:21 remaining. But Berry scored 12 points in the next nine minutes.

## Defector says N. Korea might disrupt Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Rumours circulating among North Korean army soldiers say "something unusual" might happen to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Olympics, an army defector from the North said Wednesday.

Yoo Chon-Soo also told a news conference that North Korea is telling its people that South Korea is trying to stage the 1988 Games to give the "wrong impression" that it is a sovereign state.

"There are widespread rumours circulating in the North's army that something unusual might take place in connection with the Seoul Olympics," Yoo said.

He was presented to reporters at the Ministry of National Defense.

Yoo, identified as a former sergeant of the 5th civil police company of the 8th North Korean army division, defected to South Korea across the demilitarized zone near the truce village of Panmunjom on March 7, officials announced earlier.

Yoo, listed as the 99th North Korean to cross the border into

the South since the end of the Korean War in 1953, said the Communist rulers in Pyongyang seem upset by the Seoul Olympics.

South Korean officials have repeatedly warned that North Korea would try to send armed agents or provoke armed clashes along the 155-mile border in an effort to scuttle or disrupt the Seoul Olympics, scheduled for Sept. 17-Oct. 2, 1988.

North Korea, Yoo said, is currently waging a vigorous publicity campaign against the 1988 Games, saying that Seoul, the South Korean capital, is full of "beggars, hoodlums, pollution and various diseases."

"Even if the Olympic Games are held in Seoul, many countries would not take part in them," Yoo quoted North Korean propaganda material as saying.

The Korean peninsula has been divided since the end of World War II in 1945 into the Communist North and anti-Communist South. The two sides fought a bloody war in 1950-53 that ended in a shaky armistice, which often is marred by armed clashes along the border. The United States currently has about 40,000 soldiers stationed in South Korea.

Last Sept. 14, six days before the 11th Asian Games opened in Seoul, a powerful explosion, believed to have been a time bomb, hit the city's Kimpo International Airport, killing five people and injuring 32 others.

Nobody was arrested but Seoul officials openly held North Korea responsible for the explosion, which they believed was meant to disrupt the Asian Games. The Games served as a dress rehearsal for the 1988 Olympics.

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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6053/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3121/26	Canadian dollar
	1.8367/77	West German marks
	2.0757/67	Dutch guilders
	1.5370/80	Swiss francs
	38.07/10	Belgian francs
	6.1140/90	French francs
	1304/1305	Italian lire
	151.95/152.05	Japanese yen
	6.4030/80	Swedish crowns
	6.9400/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.9075/9125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	406.00/406.50	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices rose to near record levels, with the FTSE 100 share index looking set to just top Tuesday's closing record of 2,006.3.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was 2.3 points up at 2,008.6, compared with a record high of 2,021.5 on March 4. Prices moved ahead at the outset on continued optimism over Tuesday's U.K. budget, but a smaller than anticipated half-point cut in base lending rates Wednesday morning came as somewhat of an anti-climax and put a brake on the advance, dealers said. The big four U.K. clearing banks cut their base lending rates to 10 per cent from 10 1/2 per cent.

Many had been anticipating a full one point cut in base rates in the light of Chancellor Lawson's reduction in the 1987/88 public sector borrowing requirement target to just £4 billion.

Dealers said despite the disappointment over the base rate cut, Wall Street's firmer opening helped to lift prices.

Some analysts forecast that the U.K. market will continue to gain ground in the wake of the budget but they noted that retail and overseas investors could well decide to take profits ahead of a possible general election this year.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAR. 19, 1987

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Differences in viewpoints over financial and practical matters are almost bound to arise today. They can be harmoniously settled if each person makes an effort.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Be sure you know exactly what is expected of you by the other person in any monetary dealings you may have.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** You can have a bad argument with an opinionated partner if you do not handle the matter tactfully.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** Handle a personal task early so that it will not interfere with your routine affairs later.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** You may not agree with a close friend over someone you both know, but everyone's entitled to an opinion.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Schedule your activities wisely so that home affairs do not conflict with outside matters. Do not lose your temper at home.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** You may find it hard to get your theories working today. A friend and a new contact could argue, but don't mix in.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Study that new plan carefully and then discuss it with an expert until you reach a meeting of the minds.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Try not to be so stubborn if you want to gain your personal wishes or you will meet with stiff opposition.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** You hardly know how to handle all the work you need to do. Plan it well and it will soon be done.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Someone in your group refuses to go along with all of you in a pleasurable venture. Accept this graciously.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** You can improve home affairs if you concentrate on them exclusively. Steer clear of trouble makers.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Don't go off on any tangents. You have every opportunity to get ahead if you support your partner more.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** ... he, or she, will be very capable at whatever is of a practical nature. Teach this one not to expect others to do things the way he, or she, does, or your progeny will be met with a great deal of opposition. Slant the education along business lines for best results.

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1987

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You may find some nit picking conditions annoying you, but this soon clears up and you get into some progressive phases of the interests that most animate you.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Rid yourself of some secret worry and then you can get into activities that are most profitable.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** You know exactly how to gain greater expertise in business, so get busy at that now. Don't waste any time.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** Steer clear of that noisy public affair. Get some civic work handled who can bring you advancement.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** Don't get conned by one who is overly dynamic. Handle your affairs in a most efficient way.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Take the time to plan recreations that will please you. You must, however, be sure to stay within your budget.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** Avoid an associate who has a chip on his shoulder. Invite older persons into your home and learn from them.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Ignore an irate fellow worker and handle personal matters. Be with your friends and learn from them.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Try not to take on a big expense today. Study your property well and plan any repairs that are needed.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Try not to argue with a home tie. Get together with friends that can be very helpful to you now.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Forget an annoying letter and make plans to gain your wishes. State your true affection for the one you love.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Postpone handling a financial matter until you are thinking more clearly. Go after personal aims now.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Get rid of any negativity around you. Come right to the point with a bigwig and get good results.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** ... he, or she, will have many excellent ideas that are advanced and there is bound to be much travel during this lifetime. Teach your progeny to put ideas into motion quickly since there is a tendency to daydream here. You have a young wizard.

## British banks cut interest rate to 10%

LONDON (R) — Britain's banks Wednesday began cutting interest rates, responding to a big drop in the government's borrowing target announced in the annual budget Tuesday.

National Westminster Bank and Barclays Bank cut their base lending rates to 10 per cent from 10.5 per cent Wednesday morning. The other big banks, Lloyds and Midland later followed the lead. It was not immediately clear whether building societies, which lend money to people buying houses, would follow and cut mortgage (home loan) repayment rates.

British mortgage (home loan) interest rates vary over the life of the loan, depending on general interest rate trends. In a nation where nearly two-thirds of house-holders now own their own homes, a cut in mortgage rates would help the ruling Conservative Party in a probable election year.

Speculation increased after the budget that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would call an election as early as June.

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson had the option of slashing the basic rate of income tax by four percentage points in his budget.

He opted instead for a two percentage point cut to 27 per cent, while reducing the government's public borrowing target to £4 billion (\$6.4 billion) from the previous year's £7 billion (\$11.2 billion).

That opened the way for lower interest rates. Those, besides holding out the prospect of cheaper home-buying, should also give industry a boost making investment cheaper and boosting consumer credit.

Foreign investors were quick off the mark in reaction, setting off on a share-buying spree that Wednesday morning pushed the widely watched Financial Times-Stock Exchange (FTSE) index of 100 leading shares up 12.7 points to a near-record high of 2019.

Besides plunging into British stocks, foreign investors quickly moved to snap up huge amounts of British bonds, before their prices soared in response to lower interest rates. The demand for pounds to finance these investments pushed sterling itself up about one cent to a high of \$1.6070.

The sharp gains came even though many analysts had expected a one percentage point cut in rates and said in second half point cut remained possible soon.

"The markets are still pushing for the other half and will continue to push until they get it," said Mr. Alexander Smith, economist at Alexander Laing and Cruikshank. "Lawson is taking a cautious approach to make sure the cut is accepted by the market."

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, said Tuesday night that a one percentage point interest rate cut would allow it mortgage rate to drop 1.25 percentage points to 11 per cent. A half point base rate cut would only permit a fall to 11.5 per cent.

# U.S. trade deficit soars to record \$140b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States sank further into the hole as the world's largest debtor nation in 1986 when the debt on its broadest measure of foreign trade soared to a record \$140.57 billion.

Last year ended on an especially gloomy note as the quarterly deficit from October through December hit a record as well — \$36.84 billion — primarily because of a further deterioration in merchandise trade, the government reported Tuesday.

The current account measures not only trade in merchandise but also in services such as investment earnings, tourism and foreign aid.

The imbalance in the nation's current account jumped 19.5 per cent above the previous record of \$117.68 billion, set in 1985, the government said.

The current account deficit may represent the low-point for America's trade problems, with some analysts predicting a slight improvement this year or at least no further deterioration.

But economists agree that the country's net debtor status will get much worse before it begins to improve, forecasting a total U.S. debt topping \$1 trillion by the early 1990s.

While the United States has run a deficit in merchandise trade for 15 of the past 16 years, the current account was in surplus as recently as 1981 as Americans' earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset the merchandise deficits.

But in recent years, a flood of foreign goods has wiped out the cushion once provided by investment earnings.

Deficits in the current account have made the United States the

world's largest debtor country with foreigners now owning more in U.S. investments than Americans hold in foreign investments.

The United States became a debtor nation in 1985 for the first time since 1914 with a total figure owed to the rest of the world of \$107.44 billion. The new figures on the current account for 1986 indicate that the U.S. debt has reached more than \$220 billion, putting America far ahead of the previous debt leader, Brazil, which owes \$108 billion to foreigners.

The \$36.84 billion current account deficit for the final three months of 1986 was 4.4 per cent higher than the previous record set in the July-September quarter of \$35.30 billion.

Most of the deterioration was accounted for by a higher merchandise deficit, which climbed to \$38.37 billion in the final three months of the year, up 3.3 per cent from the third quarter.

Adding to the current account deficit in the fourth quarter was \$3.95 billion in transfer payments, including foreign aid. This was offset somewhat by \$5.48 billion in net earnings on foreign investments by Americans.

Many economists warn that the growing foreign debt will eventually lower America's standard of living as the country sends more and more in interest payments overseas.

"It is a time bomb and the fuse is lit and burning away," said Mr. Allen Sinai, chief economist of

Shearson Lehman Brothers of New York. "Near-term, the deficit is not likely to do the U.S. economy in, but beyond the next two years anything could happen."

Mr. Lyle Gramley, chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association, said that at some point foreigners will be unwilling to hold so much U.S. debt.

When that happens, it will make the dollar even weaker while pushing up U.S. interest rates and inflation, Mr. Gramley said, resulting in a "very adverse effect on our rate of economic growth."

**Baker announces agreement to restrict use of subsidies to promote exports**

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary James Baker on Tuesday announced agreement with major U.S. economic allies to restrict the use of subsidies to promote exports.

Mr. Baker then asked Congress for \$200 million more for such aid.

He contended that the funds, the second proposed installment of a \$300 million export fund, are needed to fight unfair trade subsidies until the new agreement can be put in place.

Mr. Baker praised Japan — the last major holdout on the agreement — for going along with the pact, which he said "imposes particularly sacrifices on Japan."

The European Community (EC) had previously agreed to the pact.

The accord, reached by the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, puts greater limits on the

future use of foreign aid grants as a form of trade promotion, Mr. Baker said.

President Ronald Reagan's administration has sought for more than two years to persuade other major industrial nations to cut back on package deals that tie export financing with aid — either in the form of outright grants or reduced interest rates to the purchasing nations.

"The practice... has resulted in lost exports and lost jobs in the United States," Mr. Baker said in a statement praising the new agreement.

But Mr. Baker told a congressional committee Tuesday that the administration is standing fast by its request for more money for its "war chest."

"Until the agreement is fully implemented in July 1988, we will need the remaining \$200 million in war chest funds to continue to assist United States' exporters," Mr. Baker said.

The \$100 million Congress appropriated last year has been used to help U.S. exporters outbid aid-and-trade packages offered by governments of other industrial countries to prospective buyers of industrial goods.

Mr. Baker said the first \$100 million "gave us more bargaining power and helped us reach this agreement, an agreement that will help American exporters and that will save American jobs."

The new pact will eventually put a total ban on export subsidy arrangements for goods sold to other industrialised nations. It would also make subsidies more expensive for governments that export to developing countries by raising the grant component from

the current minimum of 25 per cent of the package to 35 per cent and to 50 per cent for the poorest nations.

"The increased cost would deter the use of such credits as trade promotion devices and sharpen the distinction between legitimate (foreign aid) and export financing," Mr. Baker said.

The agreement also establishes a new formula for calculating interest rates offered to help a developing nation finance its export purchases, changes, that would bring the rates more in line with those charged by commercial banks.

In other testimony, Mr. Baker: — urged congressional approval of the Reagan administration's request to increase funds to intergovernmental lenders like the World Bank.

— said Brazil must come up soon with a plan for major economic reforms if it expects commercial banks to agree to give it easier terms on paying back the \$70 billion it owes them. Brazil suspended interest payments on that debt last month.

— voiced continued support for current levels of the dollar, claiming a recent agreement among the United States and four other major industrial nations should "foster more stability" of the dollar against other currencies.

Though he praised Japan for its agreement on export credits, Mr. Baker said the Japanese should also take additional steps to ease trade barriers.

"We are making some progress, but we are not making enough," he said. "I'd like to see more market opening."

## S. Korea plans to liberalise overseas capital investment

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea plans to remove many of its restrictions on overseas capital investment, allowing Korean businesses to invest more freely in foreign real estate and securities, officials said Tuesday.

Finance ministry officials said the move, to take effect in April after revision of related laws, would allow Korean businesses to invest in hotels, restaurants and transportation abroad.

They said one highlight of the liberalisation programme would be the gradual removal of restrictions on overseas capital transactions and investment in foreign stocks and securities.

Korean businesses able to earn more than \$10 million annually abroad would be permitted to buy buildings for overseas branches and housing for employees stationed abroad, they said.

Korean investors who want to invest less than \$2 million in overseas business projects would receive automatic approval, they added.

Ministry officials said the changes were based on the country's unprecedented trade surplus last year and efforts to avoid protectionist moves against Korean products.

Under the measures, they said Korean construction companies would be allowed to invest in overseas construction, redevelopment or land-reclamation projects, especially in the United States, which is regarded as promising for investment.

But speculative buying of foreign real estate and capital flight will be barred, they said.

## Saudis urged to invest at home

ABHA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi investors have deposited at least \$26 billion in banks when a large part of that money should have been invested in industry in the kingdom, Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamil said Tuesday.

Sheikh Al Zamil said in a speech to a Saudi businessmen's conference that entrepreneurs should form what he called "investment syndicates" to protect individuals involved in large-scale projects and encourage industrial investments.

The theme of Sheikh Al Zamil's speech had been harped upon by other Saudi officials participating in the conference sponsored by the government to bolster the role of the private sector in the economy.

Earlier in the week, Prince Khalid Al Faisal lambasted Saudi

businessmen for investing overseas and branded them "ungrateful."

Sheikh Yousef Al Turki, director-general of Yanbu Industrial City, said that individual investors might have more confidence in developing Saudi industry if they pooled their resources.

Sheikh Al Zamil said that the drop in oil prices decreased Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product by 30 per cent between 1981 and 1985.

He said Saudi industries make 9.5 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"We should work together to increase this ratio to 15 per cent in the next five years," he said.

"The size of the gross domestic product depends directly on economic growth and in order to double the gross domestic product in the next 20 years, the

economy should sustain an average growth rate of three per cent per year."

Saudi planning ministry reports indicate oil makes up about two-thirds of the GDP.

Sheikh Al Zamil said economic growth should no longer be the government's responsibility alone.

"Available information indicates there are over 100 billion riyals (\$26.6 billion) deposited in banks without productive investment within the kingdom," he added.

Sheikh Al Zamil said that small industrial projects which are similar to each other should be merged into larger companies to lower production costs in addition to the investment syndicates he said private businessmen could form to build industries.

## GIC to take part in nine new projects

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), an affiliate of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is to participate in nine new projects in the region at a total cost of \$775 million.

The corporation, which achieved a \$70 million profit in 1986, has also invited the private sector to take part in the ventures, according to a report pre-

pared for GCC finance and economy ministers.

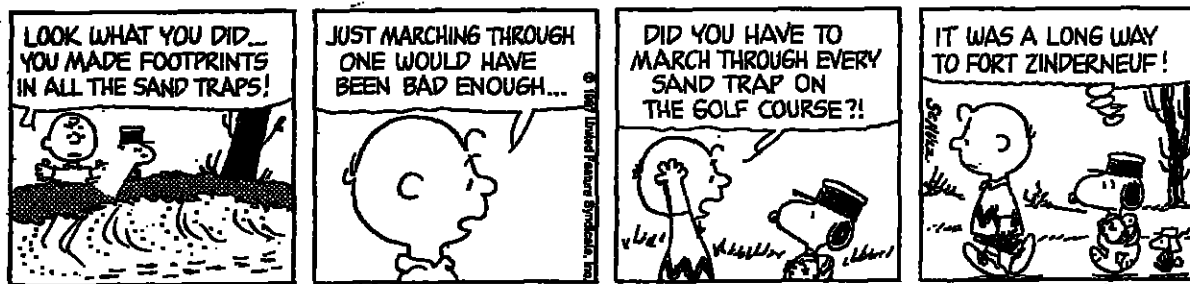
According to the report, the corporation's assets increased by 35 per cent to reach \$1.3 billion last year, against just over \$1 billion in 1985.

Over the same period, net profits rose from \$57 million to \$70 million. The report said the corpora-

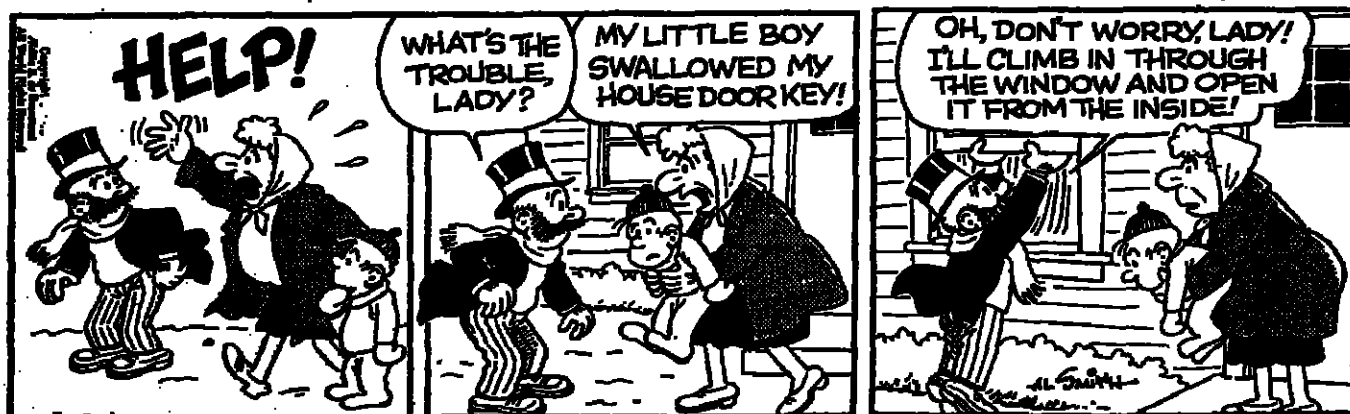
tion had studied the economic feasibility of nearly 70 investment opportunities since its establishment with an authorised capital of \$3.1 billion and paid-up capital of \$540 million.

The body is equally-owned by the six GCC members, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

## Peanuts



## Mutt n' Jeff



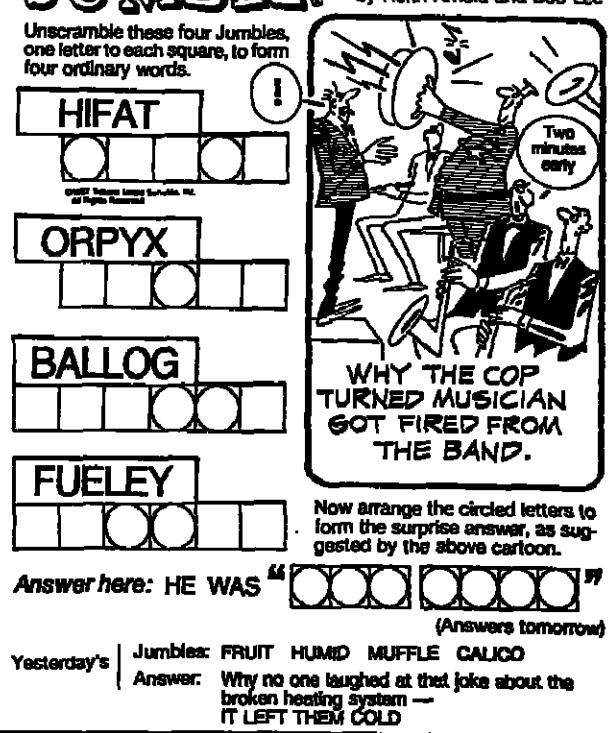
## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE





# Philippine academy bomb kills 4 in advance of Aquino visit

**MANILA (R)** — A bomb blast at the Philippine military academy killed four people and wounded 38 Wednesday, wrecking a grandstand where President Corazon Aquino was to have reviewed troops at the weekend.

A spokesman for the academy in the mountain city of Baguio north of Manila told Reuters a colonel, two enlisted men and one civilian had been killed.

The mid-morning blast ripped off sections of the grandstand roof and caused major damage to the rostrum area where Mrs. Aquino would have stood.

The explosion, which the military said might have involved two bombs, occurred as troops rehearsed graduation ceremonies that were to have been attended by the president.

Mrs. Aquino said she would fly to Baguio Thursday to visit the wounded, but a spokesman said the weekend's ceremonies were likely to be postponed.

Wednesday's incident sparked immediate rumours that the blast could have been aimed personally at Mrs. Aquino. Officials refused to speculate.

"There are no solid clues as to who might have planned the bomb," presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno told reporters. Brigadier-General Rodolfo

Biazon, academy superintendent, told Reuters: "There is no group I would particularly blame for the incident right now."

Gen. Biazon said specialists were combing the sprawling camp to ensure that no more bombs had been planted and were trying to determine the type and number of bombs used.

He said witnesses reported two nearly simultaneous explosions. Police said they had been refused access to the academy by the military, who said they would conduct their own inquiry.

Army intelligence sources said the bomb might have been planted by groups within the academy, but would not elaborate.

Military sources at first suggested the bombing was the work of Communist rebels fighting an 18-year-old civil war against the government, but no group claimed responsibility.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos, through a spokesman, called the bombing "a dastardly act."

The explosion came against a background of recent general political calm after a year of domestic instability, with the country's focus switching away from coup rumours linked to the rightwing and on to the war with the Communists.

Rebels have launched a series of ambushes against military patrols in the country and have sent assassination squads into Manila to kill soldiers and policemen.

Nineteen soldiers were killed Tuesday in an ambush by the Communist New People's Army in a remote part of Quezon province south of Manila, the state-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported.

The agency said rebel land mines blew up an armoured vehicle and troop-carrying truck and the army said it had launched a pursuit operation backed by helicopters.

No rebels were reported injured. The army put the official count of wounded in the military academy blast at 14 officers, seven soldiers and 17 civilians. One officer remained in critical condition but the other wounded were out of immediate danger, a spokesman said.

They included senior officers from the academy and a soldier's

widow, who was at the rostrum rehearsing to receive a posthumous award for him that was to have been given by Mrs. Aquino.

In Washington a top Pentagon official said Aquino's government lacks a master plan to defeat the Communist rebels in the Philippines and the insurgency is still growing.

"Counterinsurgency strategies are developed and then discarded, military advice is often ignored," Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage told a congressional panel.

"Distrust and apathy pervade civil-military relations, poor communication and coordination are common between civilian and military counterparts at all levels of government," he said in testimony submitted Tuesday to the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

In another development, Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur confirmed to the subcommittee that the United States blocked a move to return Marcos to his homeland last January by chartering plane from Hawaii, where he has lived since leaving Manila.

"We made it clear that this (flight) would not take place," Mr. Sigur said.

## Ortega: Peace requires shift in U.S. attitude

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega says a basic shift in the U.S. government's attitude toward Central America is essential if any peace plan for the region is to succeed, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

But Mr. Ortega told the newspaper in Managua that the Sandinista government was willing to make concessions to satisfy American security concerns. He said such concessions include signing an accord that would allow American troops to establish bases and conduct manoeuvres in any country that invited them.

"It there is a desire on the part of the United States to reach an agreement, one could be reached quickly, and it would respond to the major security concerns of the United States," Mr. Ortega said. He said the administration of President Ronald Reagan is

pressing Central American leaders not to agree to a regional peace plan such as the one proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez.

The U.S. Senate backed the plan last week by a vote of 97-1. The presidents of Central American countries would face the wrath of Washington if they reached an agreement with Nicaragua, Mr. Ortega told the Times.

U.S. State Department officials have said they favour a peace agreement in Central America. But they have expressed reservations about the Arias plan, saying the Sandinistas should negotiate directly with rebel leaders.

According to diplomats and published reports, the Arias plan would forbid any Central American country from allowing its territory to be used for attacks on other countries.

## 1 killed in Japanese quake

**TOKYO (Agencies)** — A very strong earthquake shook south west Japan Wednesday, killing one person and injuring three, including two children, and authorities reported heavily damaged buildings and warned of tidal waves.

Police said the dead man, a 49-year-old delivery driver, was killed when his truck overturned in Miyazaki Prefecture as the quake struck at 12.36 a.m. (0336GMT).

Others were hurt by flying shards of glass as they sat in their classroom and a 64-year-old man was seriously injured when his roof caved in.

Telephone links with the main southern island of Kyushu were badly disrupted and several trains on the island were ordered halted as a precaution.

Television showed smashed dishes and glassware in shops and residents in Miyazaki said the tremor was the strongest they had known.

The quake registered at 6.9 on the Richter Scale and at five on the Japanese scale of intensity. A reading of five is considered very strong, capable of cracking walls of buildings, and of overturning very heavy objects.

Meanwhile another strong earthquake was recorded Wednesday in the Molucca Sea off the Indonesian island of Celebes, the Royal Hong Kong Observatory reported.

## 'U.S. will not push Costa Rica into backing contras'

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Secretary of State George Shultz has said the United States won't try to intimidate Costa Rica into backing the U.S.-supported contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He also said the State Department was preparing a response to the Costa Rican government's request for a formal explanation on a finding by the Tower Commission that a clandestine airstrip inside that country was used to supply the contras.

In a note delivered Monday to the U.S. embassy and addressed to Mr. Shultz, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal complained about the section of the commission's report on the Iran-contra affair that said an aircraft supplying the contra used the airstrip on June 10, 1986.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias told the U.S. government shortly before taking office in June 1986 that he would not permit the airstrip to be used by rebels or those assisting them in their efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's government.

Mr. Shultz, responding to questions at a hearing of House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, said the United States was doing research necessary to respond to Costa Rica's request.

Asked whether the United States had tried to intimidate Costa Rica in order to win its active support for the contras, Mr. Shultz said no.

"I do not believe in intimidation and would not be part of it," Mr. Shultz said. "I do not take the view that unless you do this and so with the contras, we are going to cut off your aid."

In his note, the foreign minister said any use of the airstrip by the rebels violates Costa Rica's long-held policy of neutrality in Central American affairs. He also said his nation does not permit the rebels to operate from Costa Rican territory.

The Tower Commission was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to investigate covert U.S. arms sales to Iran in 1985-86 and the alleged funneling of payments from the sales to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Human error blamed for Johannesburg blackout

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — The biggest power failure in recent South African history plunged Johannesburg and its huge black township of Soweto into darkness for two hours after someone apparently pulled a wrong switch.

People in the country's largest city Tuesday were trapped in lifts as police cars raced through deserted streets with sirens wailing in an apparent bid to thwart looting and disturbances.

"It was an operating error," said Hennie Hamme, ESCOM's Johannesburg manager. "One of our chaps pulled the wrong switch, causing a short circuit."

A police spokesman said there were no signs of sabotage and an official of the state-owned Electricity Supply Commission (ESCOM) told Reuters a technician at one of three stations which provide Johannesburg with electricity was to blame.

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## U.S. conducts second Trident 2 test-firing

**CAPE CANAVERAL (R)** — The United States has conducted the second successful test-firing of a Trident-2 nuclear missile, a powerful weapon designed for use by U.S. and British submarines, defence officials said.

The missile, equipped with harmless dummy warheads, roared from a launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force station shortly after noon Tuesday, headed for a target far out in the Atlantic Ocean.

U.S. Defence Department officials said the missile — designed to give Trident submarines the ability to destroy Soviet missiles in their hardened silos — lifted off one day later than planned because of technical troubles.

"The navy has classified this as a successful launch so far. It will be hours before they have all the data," Navy Lieutenant Max Allen, a Defence Department spokesman, said after the missile splashed down in the Atlantic.

The test followed new proposals by the United States and Soviet Union for the removal of medium-range, land-based nuclear missiles from Europe.

Anti-nuclear activists say the Trident-2's ability to penetrate Soviet missile silos could encourage Moscow to adopt a hair-trigger launch policy, thereby increasing the chance of nuclear war.

Japan Air Lines (JAL) asked Boeing to design the warning system last year, partly in response to the Soviet downing of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jet in 1983 after it flew into Soviet Air space, said JAL spokesman Geoffrey Tudor. That crash killed 269 people.

Mr. Tudor said a JAL flight strayed off course in November 1985 and flew for an hour over the Soviet Union, prompting Soviet fighter jets to scramble. The flight landed safely, but the two incidents and "the general interests of safety and security" led JAL to seek warning system, he said.

JAL and all Nippon Airways, a major domestic carrier that added international flights last year, will be the first two airlines in the world to use the new warning system, Mr. Tudor said.

Japanese aircraft to install off-course warning devices

TOKYO (AP) — Two Japanese airlines will install newly designed devices in Boeing 747s this summer to warn pilots when flights stray off course, airline spokesmen have said.

Japan Air Lines (JAL) asked Boeing to design the warning system last year, partly in response to the Soviet downing of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jet in 1983 after it flew into Soviet Air space, said JAL spokesman Geoffrey Tudor. That crash killed 269 people.

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## Sikhs kill 3; Punjab asks for more troops

**NEW DELHI (Agencies)** — Sikh extremists killed three people in Punjab Wednesday as the government in that north Indian state asked New Delhi for paramilitary reinforcements to counter the fresh wave of violence.

Police said the assailants attacked the three this morning near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, focus of an extremist campaign to carve out an independent Sikh nation in Punjab.

The killings brought to 63 the death toll in the extremist violence in Punjab this month.

The Press Trust of India news agency said Punjab's Minister of State in the Home Ministry, Kanwaljit Singh, told the state parliament his government had asked for more than 600 additional paramilitary Central Reserve Policemen for the state.

The minister said the reinforcements would be used to guard banks, which have been hit by a series of robberies believed by Punjab police to have been carried out by the extremists to finance the buying of weapons.

More than 55,000 paramilitary and state police are already deployed in the state on counter-

insurgency operations. A leading member of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Punjab was shot to death by militant Sikhs on Tuesday, setting off rioting in the Punjab city, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

Police declared an indefinite curfew barring people from the streets in the old, walled sector of Patiala, 210 kilometres north of New Delhi, the news agency said.

UNI said Shambhu Prasad, a former Patiala president of the BJP, or Indian Peoples Party, was gunned down by militants in a store he operated. A bodyguard and a servant were seriously wounded in the shooting, the agency said.

The slaying set off rioting by members of the Hindu Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu group, UNI reported. It said the Hindu group set several fires in the city of more than 150,000 population.

Police also reported Tuesday that two people had been fatally shot and one killed to death by suspected Sikh militants in Punjab's Amritsar district the night before, UNI said.

## Gandhi replies to leaked letter from president

**NEW DELHI (R)** — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has replied to a controversial letter from President Zail Singh that sparked a public row, Indian newspapers reported Wednesday.

The reply, which unlike Mr. Singh's letter has not been published, coincided with notice of a privilege motion by the Telugu Desam, the biggest parliamentary opposition party. The motion accuses Mr. Gandhi of misleading parliament.

The Statesman newspaper said Mr. Gandhi Tuesday sent Mr. Singh a reply to his March 9 private letter, which was leaked to a national newspaper. In it the president accused the prime minister of not keeping him fully informed on major issues.

Mr. Gandhi rejected the allegation that he had ignored the constitutional requirement to brief the president regularly and said he had not misled parliament on this issue, the Statesman said.

"He (Gandhi) is understood to have stood by his statements made in parliament and pointed out that frequent tours within the country might have prevented him from meeting the president as often as he would have liked to," the Statesman said.

It said the prime minister was believed to have asserted his highest regard for the presidency and Mr. Singh's advice. Most other national newspapers carried similar reports of Mr. Gandhi's reply.

The controversy erupted last week when the mass-circulation Indian Express published Mr. Singh's letter. Mr. Singh said Mr. Gandhi's statement in parliament on March 2 that he was keeping the president fully informed on matters of state was at variance with the facts and detailed instances when Mr. Gandhi had failed to brief him.

The Press Trust of India news agency said P. Upendra, leader of Telugu Desam in the Upper House, gave notice of a privilege motion against Mr. Gandhi.

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## COLUMNS 7&8

### British royal family gets 4.8 % raise

**LONDON (AP)** — Queen Elizabeth II and 10 of her relatives got 4.8 per cent raises in the new government budget, hiking to £5,289,500 (\$8,410,300) a year the direct cost of the royal family. The appropriation, increased more generously than inflation, currently running at 3.9 per cent, was in the civil list section of the budget announced in parliament by Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer. It goes mostly for salaries to people ranging from the queen's secretaries to cleaners at Buckingham Palace, as well as for office expenses. The civil list does not include such expensive items as running the royal yacht Britannia or royal aircraft. The Times of London estimated last year that the country spends at least six times the civil list sum — or about £30 million (\$48 million) — on its first family. In the new budget, the queen receives the major appropriation of £4.3 million (\$6.9 million). Her mother, Queen Elizabeth, gets the second-largest sum, raised to £375,300 (\$596,700). The queen's husband, Prince Philip, receives £209,300 (\$332,800).

### Princess Diana meets Boy George

**LONDON (AP)** — Princess Diana, at her request, was introduced to pop star Boy George at a rock music and jazz ballet gala at a London night club. The princess, a pop music fan, is involved in work to help young drug addicts. Boy George last July agreed to undergo drug addiction treatment after being fined £250 (\$397) for possessing heroin. It was not known what the princess and the lead singer in the Culture Club group discussed. The club owner, Peter Stringfellow, said: "The princess asked to meet both Boy George and his mother and they were introduced."

### Chris Evert denies filing for divorce

**DALLAS (R)** — Chris Evert Lloyd has denied reports that she has filed for divorce from British tennis player John Lloyd. Several sources close to Lloyd had indicated that she filed for divorce after meeting her lawyers in mid-February, but the 32-year-old American tennis star issued a statement to the contrary. "Yes we are separated, yes we are discussing divorce, but as of now nobody has filed for divorce. Whether it's two weeks, a month, or a year, John and I will make a statement when it happens," Lloyd said after her three-set victory over Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in a first round match here.

### Crime-fighting premier hit by burglars

**ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)** — Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, who has twice collared car-radio thieves, missed another crimefighting chance because he was bedridden at his official residence while his family home was burglarised. Police have disclosed Lubbers' career in amateur law enforcement took a turn for the worse last week, when jewels worth 100,000 guilders (\$50,000) were stolen from the family residence, said Rotterdam police spokesman Johannes Den Breejen. The burglars gained entry to the house by smashing a window between last Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, Den Breejen said. No one was home. At the time, Lubbers was confined to bed at his official residence in the Hague with a flu-like illness, according to the government information service. In October and January, Lubbers and one of his sons managed to apprehend burglars who tried to make off with the car radio of Lubbers' wife, Ria.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

### ONE-MAN SHOW

By William Canine

- ACROSS**
- 1 Robes for 36A
  - 5 Footnote part
  - 8 Accomplished
  - 11 "— do all that may become a man" (Plautus)
  - 16 Deciduous
  - 17 Inquest
  - 18 Lasting one
  - 20 Eng. Egyptologist
  - 21 March in 1934 film
  - 22 G. assemblies
  - 24 Old G. coin
  - 25 Seers
  - 26 Insignificant
  - 27 1902
  - 28 Water heacock
  - 31 Appears
  - 32 On
  - 36 — stand
  - 37 Entranced
  - 41 Approve
  - 42 Tally and Smith
  - 44 Speech problem
  - 46 Recent poet
  - 47 Robust
  - 50 Secure
  - 52 South of G.
  - 53 Squire's choice
  - 55 Wings
  - 56 Sparse
  - 58 Way
  - 59 Widespread
  - 60 Champagne word
  - 61 Undependable
  - 62 Unit of pressure
  - 65 March in 1848 film
  - 70 Citizen of Tartu
  - 71 Remote island
  - 72 Parrot's morn
  - 74 Off-the-cuff
  - 77 Time periodic
  - 78 Madame de —
  - 79 Nothing more than
  - 80 Large beast
  - 81 One just
  - 82 Youthful
  - 83 Suffice
  - 84 Expanded
  - 85 Shikhan
  - 86 Deceitful
  - 88 Vehicle
  - 89 — up (adverb)
  - 92 Bandwidth
  - 93 Brown
  - 94 Legal matter
  - 95 Customer
  - 96 Sailing vessel
  - 98 Degree of
  - 99 Algerian
  - 100 Cautious
  - 101 Bullies
  - 102 Estimate
  - 103 Avon
  - 104 Sarcophagus
  - 105 Corn, senator
  - 106 Isolated
  - 107 Polesian port
  - 108 Hallucination
  - 109 Shaver
  - 107 Withheld prof.
  - 108 Male attraction
  - 110 Co's. command
  - 111 Indian
  - 112 Baseball's Orlando or Tony
  - 115 TV's Viggo

- DOWN**
- 1 Most heart book
  - 2 March in 1831 film
  - 3 Sole
  - 4 Velocity
  - 5 Cynic's land
  - 6 Striking appearance
  - 7 Antilles island
  - 8 Leads
  - 9 Preliminary
  - 10 Society girl
  - 11 Slown City Sue
  - 12 Cyl. Chamber for one
  - 13 Injude
  - 14 TV's Aubrey-Johns
  - 15 Work units
  - 16 Transition of a kind
  - 18 Came upon
  - 19 Gaudy and Pity
  - 20 Soft foods
  - 22 Luca della —
  - 23 Squire
  - 24 March in 1934 film
  - 25 Use the slopes (estimated)
  - 26 Follow-up
  - 27 Days of your
  - 28 In a while
  - 29 Actor's award
  - 30 Further
  - 31 Broadway's "The — Game"
  - 32 "— Kapiti"
  - 33 Source of energy: abbr.
  - 34 Part of JSS
  - 35 March in 1940 film
  - 36 Suffer
  - 37 Without slowness
  - 38 Talk to court
  - 39 Venture
  - 40 Tentative
  - 41 Adult holiday
  - 42 Always
  - 43 Trick
  - 44 Pass away
  - 45 Female sheep
  - 46 Stuffy boy
  - 47 Day before a holiday
  - 48 Co's. command
  - 49 Suffer
  - 50 Suffer
  - 51 Indian
  - 52 Baseball's Orlando or Tony
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